

The Love of the Cross

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Romans 5:6-11

- The cross of Christ is the "crux" of God's plan for human redemption – 1 Cor. 2:2; 15:1-4.
- It is the pinnacle of love offered to all humankind.
- It is the standard of love to which we should all aspire.
- It is the key to the eternal destiny of every person who has ever lived. Gen. 3:15.
- Rom. 6:3-4 "As many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death"

For the Love of Sinners

- Rom 5:8 "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
- God gave His Son – called "the most obvious fact in the Bible" Jn. 3:14-17; 1 Jn. 3:1,16; 4:7-11.
- Jn. 10:17-18; Eph. 5:25 – Jesus demonstrated His love for us by His voluntary death. Also Jn. 15:13.
- 2 Cor. 8:9 – He became poor to enrich us!
- 1 Cor. 15:9-10 "For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."
- What kind of response does the Lord Jesus' love generate from us?

For the Love of Christ

- Mk. 12:29-31 – What evidences lack of love for God?
- 1 Jn. 4:19 "We love him, because he first loved us."
- For the Lord Jesus Christ? Jn. 14:23-24 "Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love

Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me."

- 2 Cor. 5:14-15 – No greater motivation for service or sacrifice!
- 1 Jn. 4:10-11 – Loving the Lord means loving our brethren.
- Jn. 13:34-35 – "As I have loved you"

Love – the Power of the Cross

- Jn. 12:32 – His death is the exclusive means by which He "will draw all peoples" to Himself.
- See Hos. 11:3-4 "I taught Ephraim to walk, Taking them by their arms; But they did not know that I healed them. I drew them with gentle cords, With bands of love, And I was to them as those who take the yoke from their neck. I stooped and fed them." **Are Christians so forgetful?**
- 1 Cor. 1:18 – To the saved, it is the power of God! (Compare 1 Cor. 15:1-4)
- 1 Cor. 2:1-2 – Preaching "Christ, and Him crucified" rejects what makes the cross of no effect (1 Cor. 1:17).
- Genuine love for the Lord will move us to be faithfully obedient to Him – Jn 14:15; 1 Jn. 5:3; Tit. 2:14 speaks of Jesus, "who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works."

Decision...

- Acts 2:14-37 – The Cross previewed the conditions for obeying the Gospel (vs. 38-39)...
- Rom. 6:3-4 "As many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death"
- Gal. 6:14 "God forbid that (we) should glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ"
- Gal. 2:20 – Having been "crucified with Christ" will we choose to live as He lived?
- The Way of the Cross Leads Home...