

Christ, Culture, & The Cross

The Reality Of The Cross

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Christ crucified as God's power, and therefore God's wisdom, at work in the world is the ultimate contradiction to merely human ways of perceiving reality. (Gordon Fee, *The First Epistle to the Corinthians*)

The Scandalous Cross

[We] need regularly to be reminded that the very word "cross" was a word you would most likely not utter in polite society. The thought of it would not only put you off your dinners; it could give you sleepless nights. (N.T. Wright, *The Day The Revolution Began*)

In the Roman Empire, crucifixion wasn't only about death. It was about public disgrace. The problem with getting yourself crucified wasn't just that it would kill you but that it would humiliate you at the same time. . . . The message of a humble Lord was a shocking thing to hear in the ancient world. (Ben Meyers, *The Apostles' Creed*)

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation. (Galatians 6:14-15)

The Reality Of The Cross

Experiencing It's Power

1) The Cross _____ Every _____.

- Practical Step: _____

The Centrality of the Cross changes everything. When you receive the Good News that Jesus died for you, the result is like dropping a rock in a smooth pond: The ripples radiate outward to the farthest edge of reality. . . . People centered on the Cross know how to die, learn how to live, and love like they've been forever changed by the love they've received.

(Fred Sanders, 2022, February 26, The Cross Changes Everything, *Christianity Today*)

2) The Cross _____ How We _____.

- Practical Step: _____

As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

(Isaiah 55:9)