

# CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST

## Introduction

- A. “Crucified’ is the only really definitive adjective by which to describe the Christian life” (J. Furman Miller).
- B. “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (**Gal. 2:20**).
- C. In the text above, Paul speaks of “the life which I now live.” This stands in contrast to the way he lived previously, when “faith in the Son of God” was not his guiding principle. To say the least, obedience to the gospel of Christ creates a “before” and an “after” — a radical conversion or turning in a person’s life. Cf. **Ac. 3:19**.

## I. GOD’S ULTIMATE INTENTION FOR US

- A. In Christ, God plans to do more than smooth out a few wrinkles from our lifestyles. He plans to renovate the depths of our hearts so radically that our character will be just like that of Jesus Christ — *not a band-aid but major surgery*.
- B. When our hearts have become miniature models of Christ’s own heart, we will truly be His siblings, bearing as He does the unblemished image of our Father. God aims for us “to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren” (**Rom. 8:29**).

## II. OUR COMMITMENT TO THINK DIFFERENTLY

- A. Being “crucified with Christ” does not happen automatically. It’s a choice we make, and it’s one we make continually.
- B. Our “sanctification” is both a fact (**1 Cor. 6:11**) and a command (**2 Cor. 7:1**).
- C. Learning to “live by faith in the Son of God” is not easy. It requires the kind of commitment and discipline which says, “I am done with self-will and self-reliance. God being my helper, I will learn to move at His command because I *trust* Him.” A human being cannot change at any deeper level than this — in Christ, we are a “new creation” (**2 Cor. 5:17**).

## III. WHAT WILL MOTIVATE US TO MAKE THE CHANGE?

- A. Nothing less than deep gratitude for God’s pardon is powerful enough to produce the kind of change He plans for us.
- B. The difference between Paul’s past and present was motivated by his love for the Son of God, “who loved me and gave Himself for me.”
- C. In another text, Paul said that “the love of Christ compels us . . . He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again” (**2 Cor. 5:14,15**).

## Conclusion

- A. May we never underestimate the seriousness of what has to happen to us. “Crucifixion” is not too strong a word for it.
- B. It was doubt and distrust that drove us to sin. Forgiven, we must learn to “*live by faith in the Son of God*” — faith must be the lens through which we see everything, the deciding factor in all the choices we have to make.

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