

Session 7 | The Cross: New Identity, New Potential & The Means of Transformation

Primary Passages: John 14-16, Galatians 2-4, Colossians 1:15-3:17

Big Idea

As is so evident in our daily lives, we still sin, Christians and non-Christians alike. One of the tragic realities is the shift return to living under the law in an effort to transform our lives. Christ and Paul both exhort believers to walk in God's statutes and obey his commands, but what is the means by which we accomplish this task? The answer to found in Paul's famous words in Galatians 2:20 "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." Understanding our new identity in Christ and the reality of the indwelling Christ who works in us to transform our lives is the fundamental means of transformation.

Exercise #1:

Read Genesis 3:1-7, 23-24 and Answer the following questions at your table

How would you define sin?

What are the consequences of sin?

Exercise #2:

Read Ezekiel 36:22-32 (along with Jeremiah 31:31-34, 32:36-41)

What resolutions to our Sin problem do these passages offer?

What is the great hope for the people of God?

Exercise #3:

Read Colossians 2:6-15

What is the means of Justification according to this passage:

What is the means of Sanctification according to this passage:

The Cross of Christ attained three things for us.

- New Heart
- New Identity
- New Power

Exercise #4:

Read John 14:15-15:11 and 16:5-15

In what way the question, "what is the means of transformation," answered in the promises Jesus gives to his disciples? (List the promises and their affects)

Indwelling Power of Christ - The Gift of the Holy Spirit:

Colossians 1:27-29

Galatians 2:20

Romans 8:1-11

Quotes

"In [Gal. 2:20], Paul is not focusing on the fact that the Cross enables me to be accepted by God and adopted into his family (though this is very important...) Here Paul wants us to see the new life we have in Christ through the gift of the Holy Spirit. It's important to recognize this because many believers tend to think of the Cross only in terms of a doorway into relationship with God. Paul is saying that the Cross is that doorway, but it is so much more!" (Paul Tripp and Timothy Lane, *How People Change*, 149).

"Never a day goes by when we do not fail to do what Christ has enabled us to do. Despite all of the gifts flowing from our union with Christ, sin still remains in us. That's the reason you need to know that Jesus has broken the power of sin—because its presence still remains! We should not be shocked that the war still rages inside us. We have been changed, we have been empowered, but we have not yet been perfected." (Paul Tripp and Timothy Lane, *How People Change*, 153).