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The Power Of The Cross

1 Corinthians 1:17-18

INTRODUCTION **NOTES** The cross was a watershed moment for the Apostle Paul and for us. It is important that we understand the cross and the power of the cross. It is more powerful than a piece of jewelry or a symbol that others see. In the early church, the symbol was not the cross. The cross was a Roman instrument of death. As we look back 2,000 years, the cross represents the power of God. What kind of power are we talking about? That's what we're going to discuss in today's message. **KEY POINTS** 1. The cross has the power to make you right with God. It is only through the finished work of Jesus on the cross that we are made right with God. At the cross, we develop a relationship with God, and we enjoy fellowship with God. But what is the difference between relationship and fellowship? Well, let's dive into that. Fellowship is lost or diminished because of sin. Fellowship is restored through Jesus. Believers will go to heaven because they have a relationship with Christ. A relationship is forever and ever. Fellowship is just for now. 2. This cross has the power to make you right with other believers. The reason why we can be in relationship with other people is because we are in relationship with God. When God clears your conscience, He helps you push the reset button. You learn that you have been set free when you learn what it means to be in Christ. You are totally forgiven of all your sins of the past, the present, and the future. You realize that God is not going to hold you accountable to pay the debt for your sins because the debt has already been paid. This completely changes your mind. What happens when your mind is changed, and you understand that you are forgiven? It begins to affect how you treat other people. People in pain create pain, but people in peace with God bring peace.

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3. The cross has the power to keep you straight.

When you gave your life to Christ, God broke the master link inside your life that bound you to sin. Even though we live in a physical body, God sets us free from being controlled by that sin nature. The sin nature is the very thing that drives people to do what is wrong, to go against God's laws. Some people are offended by lost people doing bad things. That is what lost people do. It is part of their sinful nature. But when we surrender our lives to Jesus, His power gives us freedom and victory over our sin.

4. The cross has the power to send you out.

The fellowship that we have with Jesus through the cross motivates people to share the Gospel. If you look at the early church and read the Book of Acts, you will see a different picture of the church as compared to the church today. They were focused on going out and sharing the Gospel. Their desire to share the Gospel was overpowering. It is the cross that calls us to share the Gospel. If you are in fellowship with Jesus and in fellowship with the cross, you will want other people to be saved.

NOTES

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1.	What do you	love about	having	fellowshi	p with	God too	lay?

2.	How has your relationship with God impacted your relationship with other
	people?

3. What steps are you taking to actively share the gospel with other people?				

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