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## **Crucified Life**

Galatians 2:20

The crucified life is a pursuit of perfection, of spiritual perfection.

Phil. 3:12

When we believe in Christ and trust on what He has accomplished on the Cross, we pursue Christ and His abundant life that leads us to be obedient just as He was obedient to the will of our Heavenly Father.

And this is the crucified life when we deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Christ (Matt. 16:24).

This crucified life leads to an empowerment by His grace which manifests total surrender and obedience that gives us total satisfaction and unending joy.

Living the crucified life is not an easy proposition, it is in fact a most challenging opportunity in life, and it will be the most challenging life imageable. The cost is high, the path is rough. It is a lonely walk; it is you and the Lord. The rewards you gain of knowing God in an intimate fellowship is more than worth the difficulties of the journey.

### **The Importance of the Crucified Life:**

The crucified life is of vital importance to the health and growth of the church.

The church is comprised of individuals who have trusted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The health of the church is in direct proportion to the great commission of Jesus Christ “. . . go into all the world and preach the gospel . . .”

Mark 16:15

Not all Christians are alike. (Matthew 13:23) “However, what was sown on rich soil is the one who hears the message and understands it; such a person will surely bear fruit, a hundred, or sixty or thirty times what was sown.” We should never be satisfied with thirty or sixty-fold. Become a hundred-fold Christian.

The path that accomplishes this is living the crucified life.

The crucified life is also known as:

- the deeper life
- the higher life
- the Spirit filled life
- the wholly sanctified life
- the victorious Christian life
- the practical Christian life

**We are not called to do the amazing things that only God can do. We are called to consecrate ourselves to Him and then the amazing things will happen.**

A. W. Tozer (an extremely renowned pastor, author, editor, and spiritual mentor,) emphasizes the need for a deeper knowledge of God and development of the inner life, defines the “Crucified Life” as a life wholly given over to the Lord in absolute humility and obedience, a sacrifice pleasing to the Lord. The word, crucified, takes us back to what Christ did on the cross. The purpose of a crucified life is in the hope of taking that which is the progress toward spiritual perfection. The whole of the Bible supports this, the Apostle Paul longed for spiritual perfection;

**Philippians 3:12** “. . . It is not that I have already obtained or reached the goal – no, I keep pursuing it in hope of taking hold of that for which Jesus Christ took hold of me.”

Jesus did not die on the cross just to save people from hell; rather, He died on the cross so that all could become one with Christ. There is more to the Christian life than just being saved from the past and being saved from one’s sins. There is more to the Christian life than having a happy life on the way to heaven. The crucified life is a life absolutely committed to following Christ Jesus. It is to be more like Him, to think like Him, to love like Him. The whole essence of spiritual perfection has everything to do with Jesus Christ, not with rules or regulations; not with legalism, it is a passion or a fire to be like Christ.

Living the crucified life is a journey not for the faint of heart, it is a rough journey filled with dangers and difficulties; it will not end until we see Christ. We must die to ourselves daily until the time we see Him. Although the journey is difficult the result of seeing Christ face to face makes the journey worth every amount of sacrifice and pain. This tough journey can be accomplished even by those who are the least among us. It is not a journey of physical strength but of desire and love for Jesus.

**Matthew 10:38** “And anyone who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.”

The cross is an instrument of death, of a tortuous death. Symbolizing, here, not the bearing of any burden or distress but by a willingness to give our life sacrificially for the Master’s use. The cross makes me fit for the Master’s use. This is a great joy! Can there be a great joy than to be fit for the Master’s use, then to be fit for being used by Jesus our Lord?

**Our identification with Christ is on the resurrection side of the Crucified Life:**

Colossians 3:1-10 “Since we have been raised to a new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your real life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in His glory. So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don’t be greedy for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. You used to do these things when your life was part of this world. But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. Don’t lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and its wicked deeds. Put on your new nature and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like Him.”

**Romans 6:4** “Through immersion into His death we were buried with Him, so that just as, through the glory of the Father, the Messiah was raised from the dead, likewise, we too might live a **new life or the newness of life.**”

Our ultimate goal is to see Christ face to face. To be acceptable to Him. There is strength in Jesus Christ that makes the Christian journey a successful life. (I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.)

The successful Christian life is not automatic. The soul must be cultivated like a garden and the will must be sanctified to become like Christ. Heavenly treasures or the things above must be sought, and the things below must be mortified, given absolutely no place in our thoughts and actions.

Do not become satisfied with the status quo, too many do. Press on to become a hundred-fold Christian, acceptable before God and making a difference in our walk by pressing into Him.

The battle cry of the early Christians was “He is Risen” and it took courage to say it. To those early Christians Easter was not a holiday. It wasn’t a day at all. It was an accomplished fact that lived with them all year long and became the reason for their daily conduct. “He lives,” they said, “and we live.” He was triumphant over death, and in Him we are triumphant. He is with us and will lead us if we will follow.

**We the church are completely different from the world:**

We must take a heavenly mind set for earthly action. Take heaven’s perspective on every issue so we know how to live on earth. We need a kingdom mentality, a heavenly mentality, if we expect to receive heavenly benefits. The early Christians turned their faces toward an altogether new life because Christ had risen from the dead (**Romans 6:4**). They live transformed lives. They live the fact that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead and they had risen with Him.

**Colossians 3:1-3** “So if you were raised along with the Messiah, then seek the things above, where the Messiah is sitting at the right hand of God. Focus your minds of the things above, not on the things of earth. For you have died and your live is hidden with the Messiah with God.”

Our hearts are now united and ignited with the things of Christ, love for Him, faith and trust and confidence in God. These things make us delight in the Lord and value the treasures that are above.

**1 John 4:17** “Here is how love has been brought to maturity with us: as the Messiah is, so are we in the world. This gives us confidence for the Day of Judgment.” (Complete Jewish Bible)

Since our hearts are filled with His love and His life has been perfected in us, therefore, as He is so are we in this world.

**Crucified Life also means to live Humbly and Hungry for Jesus:**

The example of Nicolas Herman commonly known as Brother Lawrence (1614-1691) (a lay brother in the Carmelite monastery in Paris. He is remembered for his intimacy in relationship with God by practicing the presence of God in the ordinary business of life.) He was a kitchen worker in the monastery. He said he did those dishes for the glory of God. When he was through with his work he would lay flat on the floor and worship God. We must be so in love with our God that we thank Him every moment of every hour and every day for everything. Not just the joys but the hardship and toil, and pain. This is producing God in us and making us fit for Him. We must act as if we are in heaven with Him. The Holy Spirit will show us the way to do this. Because Christ has risen, and we have risen with Him and sit at the right hand of God the Father with Him in spirit.

In a manner of speaking, we belong up there with Him. Our culture belongs up there. Our thoughts belong up there. Everything belongs up there. Then when you are down here and you act like Christ, people will notice you are different. When asked why you are different you have a reason to talk about Jesus! 1st John 4:17 "Hear is how love has been brought to maturity with us: as the Messiah is, so are we in the world. This gives us confidence for the Day of Judgment."

**We are to act as we believe. Living the Crucified Life begins on the resurrection side of the cross. Jesus is alive; therefore, we live!**

Jesus died on the cross so that all could become one with Christ. This is the only place where unity in the body is achieved.