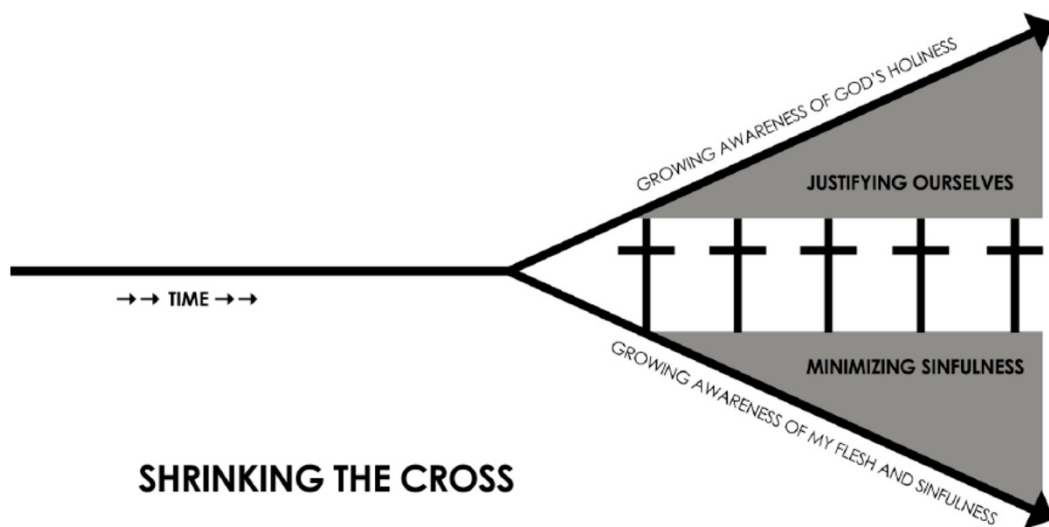
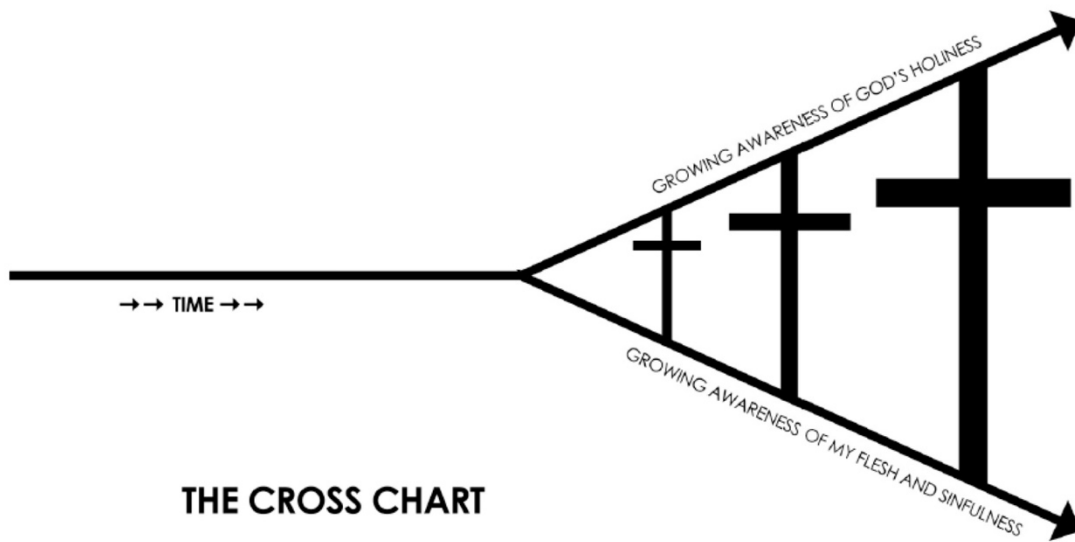


- Work of the Spirit – positional and progressive sanctification ... Why does the Spirit need to work in our hearts and lives – because in our everyday life, we are not as we should be ... We need the Holy Spirit to transform us into the image of Christ – into how God sees us when He looks upon us through Jesus ... We ended last week talking about the ways in which the Holy Spirit teaches us, and thus also guides us, day to day
 - He reveals God's Word and its meaning ... He reminds us of God's truth ... He speaks to us ... He convicts us of sin and areas of life that need transformation ... He testifies to the greatness of Jesus and salvation ... He glorifies Jesus in us and through us
- The gospel message – that God sent His Son Jesus into the world in order to save sinners and to reconcile them back to God, those He calls and who respond to Him in faith by the Holy Spirit – this message of the Church is that of the Early Church ... Paul says in Gal1 that there is no other gospel but what has been preached by him and the other apostles ... In fact, if there is another gospel that is preached, let that person who does so fall under God's judgment ... But this is exactly what was happening in the churches of Galatia that Paul planted ... Teachers were coming into churches and proclaiming to new believers, especially Gentile believers, that the true gospel included other conditions that Paul failed to mention: the covenant practice of circumcision, observance of Jewish holy days, and obedience to Jewish dietary restrictions ... Jewish Christians needed to continue these practices, and Gentile Christians needed to begin these practices, otherwise, both would not be considered true Christians
 - Paul warns the churches of Galatia – Gal5:1 ... Phillips, “Plant your feet firmly therefore within the freedom that Christ has won for us” ... What does Paul mean by “don't submit again to a yoke of slavery” – vs4 ... you are looking to the law, to works, to make yourself righteous before God and to keep your salvation ... In doing this, Paul says, you are rejecting the finished work of Christ, and thus His righteousness, and instead depending on your own merits to justify yourself before God ... “You have fallen from grace” Paul says (he means, *you have chosen legalism over grace in order to be in relationship with God*) ... 5:7-8
 - Boice, “Even the ethical life must begin by recognizing that the foundation of God's dealings with men is grace through faith rather than legalism ... Holiness will never come as the result of someone insisting an adherence to either man-made or even God-made regulations” ... In of itself, the law is good; it set forth God's standard for mankind, what He expected out of them and what they needed to do in order to enjoy His presence ... In many ways, the law served as a guard rail so that one would not veer off into sin ... It served as a mirror that revealed sin in one's life ... It also served as a reminder that no one was able to perfectly obey the law – no matter how hard someone tried, they always fell short of God's standard (Rom7)
 - A mirror can show us how dirty we are, it can show us what to clean from our face and where ... A mirror, however, cannot clean us, it cannot wash us ... Trying to keep God's standard and relying on good works, does not and cannot save us, nor make us righteous before God ... Only Jesus can save us; only Jesus can make us righteous ... He takes our unrighteousness and gives us His own righteousness, and this He does through the Holy Spirit ... 5:5; 1Jo3:1-3 ... But let's be honest with ourselves, is this how we go about believing the gospel and living out our faith?
- How we shrink the cross – Pic 1 ... We base God's approval on our daily performance ... As God thinks of you right now, what is the look on His face? ... If God has anything other than a smile on His face, because of how He sees you in Jesus, then you view God through a lens of performance-based approval ... And this is not the gospel; this is not fully living as God's child ... This goes against the work of the Spirit ... We also shrink the cross by pretending to be better than we really are – we minimize our sin, we wrongly view others, we base our goodness on ourselves
- How we magnify the cross – Pic 2 ... Thune pg30 ... The standard of God, then, should drive us to the gospel: God expects this, I can't do this ... However, Jesus perfectly did this on my behalf ... Therefore, through the Holy Spirit, Jesus gives me the grace and power to obey; and if I mess up, He gives me grace and forgiveness ... Ro8:1, Ga5:1

- **V5:13** ... Paul restates that Christians are called to live in the freedom that Jesus has won and that the Spirit makes realized within us ... But he warns them that they are not to use their freedom as a license to serve themselves, but as a way to serve others through love
 - Paul does a play on words here – “Don’t become enslaved to legalism (1), but become slaves to others (13)” ... The Christian life is not about seeking after your best life now ... Being a follower of Jesus is not about looking out for yourself at the expense of everyone else ... What has Christ done for you? ... How has He treated you? ... In the same manner in which He has treated us, are we not also to treat one another? ... In serving others and loving others, we bear witness to our Christian faith, to the love of God within us, to the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit
 - We all have personal convictions of various kinds, and these are good to have ... We get in trouble, though, when we try to force our convictions on to others, especially in a legalistic way ... We also get in trouble if we read our convictions into certain scriptures, thus making them say more than they actually say
 - home school or public school ... stay at home mom or work place mom ... trade school or college ... get married or stay single ... lots of kids or few kids or no kids ... We can turn these things into legalism that others have to follow to be considered good Christians ... We can also cause people to carry around undue shame and doubt and anger, things that we should not be putting on others ... In all of these options, this question must be answered: in what way is God leading you ... And His answer determines in what direction that individual or couple goes ... The Lord gives freedom in these areas; His call is for you to follow Him, however that looks
- **Walk by the Spirit, be led by the Spirit, live by the Spirit, keep in step with the Spirit** will be Paul’s exhortation to the churches in Galatia, and to us ... In **Eph5:18**, his command is similar, “**keep being filled with the Holy Spirit**” – keep being controlled by the Spirit, giving Him more and more of yourself ... Holy Spirit, guide me, teach me, change me, work in me and work through me ... The filling of the Spirit leads to the fruit of the Spirit ... Pick up here next week



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