

Taking Up the Cross

The Meaning of the Cross – for _____

- Pain and _____
- An _____ of death
- Being willing to endure _____
- _____ from His Father
- Submission to the _____ of God
- His _____ love

The Meaning of the Cross – for Jesus’ _____

Pre-crucifixion – an _____ of death; _____ and a symbol of...

- _____
- _____ humiliation
- _____ to Rome

Post-crucifixion / resurrection – a symbol of...

- _____, faith, life, _____
- _____
- _____, purpose, identity
- Death and _____

The Meaning of the Cross – for _____

- My _____ in Christ (1 Pet. 3:18; 1 Cor. 1:18)
- An _____ of death – to my _____ way of life

Summary: Two key principles

- His _____ for my _____
- My _____ (in Him) for His _____

Taking up the cross = Seeing and applying the cross as an _____ of death to all that is keeping me from living in _____ to Christ

Romans 6:1-11

- _____ with Christ’s death (vv. 3-4) → _____ to sin
- _____ crucified with Christ (v. 6-7) → _____ from sin
- Co-crucified, co-buried, and _____ with Christ (vv. 5, 8)

2 Peter 2:24

2 Corinthians 5:14-17 – 4 “news”:

- 1) New _____ (15a)
- 2) New _____ (15b)
- 3) New _____ (16)
- 4) New _____ (17)

2 motivations: 1) Christ’s _____ 2) Christ’s _____ for me

Galatians 2:20 – 3 contrasts

- 1) Dead...but _____
- 2) Not I who live...but _____
- 3) Live in the flesh...live _____ in Christ

Discussion Questions: Taking Up the Cross

1. What is my conception of “the cross” in Matthew 16:24?
How would I describe it to someone?

2. Read the following passages and discuss what they contribute to the key ideas of the message.

- Philippians 2:5-8

- Romans 6:16-22

- Romans 7:4-6

- Colossians 3:5-7

3. What makes personal application of the principle of taking up my cross difficult?

4. What is *one thing* you definitely want to take away with you from today’s message?

How do you plan to *follow through* on that *one thing*?