

The Empty Cross **1 Corinthians 1:10-17**

This message is about the cross that has been stripped of its power and meaning!

The Corinthians had lost sight of the point of the cross!

As a result, they had stripped it of its power and meaning.

They had emptied the cross by considering it of secondary importance. V 17

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Everything is secondary to the Cross!

I. WE EMPTY THE CROSS UNLESS WE TAKE UP THE CROSS!!! Luke 9:23, 24

Here, Jesus outlines 3 basic commitments of the disciple.

A. YOU MUST GIVE UP YOUR OWN WAY

What motivates the Godly practice of self-denial?

Christ in the center of our personalities! **Galatians 2:20**

Paul had become a person for others!!

Christ was now the new source of Life in his personality!!

B. YOU MUST TAKE UP YOUR CROSS DAILY

Self-denial emphasizes turning from commitment to self to commitment to Christ.

Taking up your Cross involves turning with Christ to the World In Need!!

Cross bearing includes Sacrificial, Loving Service to Others!

It is an act of voluntary commitment.

It is an act of obedience. **Luke 14:27**

C. YOU MUST FOLLOW JESUS

Just as Jesus followed God, we are to follow Jesus.

Just what does Jesus have to say about following Him?

a. His Disciples are equipped with power and authority **Luke 9:1, 2**

b. His Disciples will become fishers of men. **Mark 1:16-18**

c. His Disciples must be with Him to serve Him. **John 12:26**

II. THE FULLNESS OF THE CROSS

The fullness of the power and meaning of the Cross in our lives;

can be thought of as the degree to which we:

experience harmony, or wholeness, in relationship to God and to others.

NOTICE THE PROGRESSION:

1. YOU MUST GIVE UP YOUR OWN WAY

Placing God's will first!

2. YOU MUST TAKE UP YOUR CROSS DAILY

Positive action [Sacrificial Service to Others]

3. YOU MUST FOLLOW JESUS

[Commitment to Holy Living]

Don't think that's for you!

You don't want to be too religious!!!

Consider **Matthew 10:38, 39**