

“How Crucified Are You?”
Galatians 2:20-21

Hopefully, we have a clear understanding of what the crucifixion of Christ means. But do we have a understanding of what it means to be "crucified with Christ"? In 1973, Patrice Tamao allowed himself to be crucified for the cause of world peace. Tamao had three 6-inch stainless steel nails driven through his hands and feet. Twenty hours passed before he requested to be taken down. In 1965, Daniel Waswa compelled his wife to crucify him "for the sins of all Kenyans." Men don't let your wives try this at home!

From the time of Christ's sacrifice to the present, many have sought to show their devotion to Jesus, secure their own forgiveness, or make some public statement by actually having themselves crucified. Hopefully, we know that this is not what Paul is talking about in our text this morning. So what does Paul mean? ...

*I Am Crucified With Christ Because **He Died For My Sins**.* Isaiah 53:5 – “He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.”

*I Am Crucified With Christ Because **He Died In My Stead**.* One of the most powerful stories pointing to what Christ did for us on Calvary is found in Genesis 22. God commands Abraham to take his son Isaac and offer him as a burnt offering on Mt. Moriah. As they make their way up the mountain, Isaac asks: “Father, the fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” Abraham replies: “My son, God Himself will provide the lamb” (7-8). When they arrive, Abraham binds Isaac and lays him on the altar. As Abraham draws back his knife to slay his own son, the angel of

the Lord stops him. As Abraham lifts up his eyes, he sees a ram caught in the bushes, and Abraham takes the ram and offers it up instead of his son.

There is a point of contrast and a point of similarity when we compare this account to that of Christ's ultimate sacrifice. Unlike Abraham, God did not spare His one and only Son, but gave him up as a sacrifice for our sins. But as the ram took Isaac's place, the perfect Lamb of God has taken ours. Jesus has died in our stead.

*I Am Crucified With Christ **Through My Denial Of Self**.* Luke 9:23 – Jesus said, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.” Though our sins were nailed to him on the cross, and though he died in our stead, there is a daily crucifixion that must be made. We must die daily.

1 Cor. 15:30-31 – “As for us, why do we endanger ourselves every hour? I die every day – I mean that brothers ...” Paul was exposed to death every day as he denied himself and followed the Lord. Because of his faith in Christ and his testimony to Christ, he bore in his body the marks of Jesus. He imitated Christ through his own sufferings and considered it pure joy. Like Paul, we are to die to self so that we can live for Christ.

*I Am Crucified With Christ **Through My Death To Sin**.* Romans 6:6-7 – “For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin – because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.” Since our old self was crucified with Christ, we must treat it as dead. We must put to death those things pertaining to the old self. [P]

So, when it comes to denying self and dying to sin – **“How Crucified Are You?”**

1. *How Crucified Are Our Hands and Feet?* Hundreds of years before the death

of Christ, David said, “A band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet” (Ps. 22:16). This is a messianic prophecy offering precise details regarding Christ’s death – his hands and feet would be pierced – nailed to a cross. Are our hands and feet crucified with Christ? This is the case when we allow Christ to use our hands to reach out to those in need – or our feet to follow after him and bring the gospel to others.

2. *How Crucified Is Our Will?* On the Mount of Olives, Jesus agonized over the cup of sin and judgment that he was about to drink. But in his agony, he prayed, “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done” (Lk. 22:42). The will of Jesus was to do the will of the One who sent him. “Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross!” (Phil. 2:8) Jesus had the will of a servant. He went against the self-centered, self-seeking, and self-serving pattern of this world – and so must we. When it comes to doing our will or the Father’s will – How crucified are we?

3. *How Crucified Are Our Affections?* Christ’s very incarnation demonstrates to us his affection for humanity. The life he lived while on this earth modeled the divine love of God – a love that is unconditional! His taking up the cross, bearing it to Calvary, and laying down his life declares the affection of our Creator and Redeemer! How crucified are our affections? Paul tells us that since we have been crucified with Christ and raised with Christ: “Set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated ... For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.” (Col. 3:1-3). We crucify our affections when we’re preoccupied with Christ’s affection – to love as He loved. And to do that successfully, He must be our heart’s desire. [P] So when all is said and done, how

crucified are we?

[Close with poem]

Christ has no hands but our hands to do his work today.
He has no feet but our feet to lead men in His way.
He has no tongue but our tongues to tell how He died.
He has no help but our help to bring them to His side.
We are the only Bible the careless world will read.
We are the sinner's Gospel; we are the scoffer's creed.
We are the Lord's last message given in deed and word.
What if the type is crooked? What if the print is blurred?
What if our hands are busy with other work than His?
What if our feet are walking where sin's allurements is?
What if our tongues are speaking of things His lips would spurn?
How can we hope to help Him and hasten His return?
So, Christians, tell your neighbors, tell everyone you know.
Tell them that Jesus died, because He loved us so.
Tell how He came from Heaven to earth, so He could give
His life upon the cross that those near and far might live.