



They that are Christ's

Galatians 5:24 KJV *"And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."* The Apostle Paul is laying out a clear way to discern those who are fully possessed by Christ Jesus. Jesus purchased us to possess us wholly, not to borrow us for religious activity on Sunday morning. The crucified life is the only life where resurrection power is attainable and sustainable. I will roughly quote Watchman Nee; he said "the blood of Jesus is for your sin, while the cross is for your flesh." To fully love God with all our strength, our flesh must be crucified. Like Jacob, God wants us to walk with a limp. Jacob's encounter with the Angel of the Lord is a good picture of having a crucified flesh. It's hard to put confidence in the flesh when you walk with a limp. Many people in church have no idea that wrestling with God in prayer will cause you to walk with a limp. When a person's flesh is crucified their main desire is to communicate with God. This person understands where his life and strength and help come from. Most of what happens today in church is flesh with a touch of Jesus. How much of our services can be done without Jesus? You can get a Greek/Hebrew study Bible and get a nice little message. You can have a trained musician to play two fast songs and two slow songs and out you go. Where was Jesus in all that? The same place he was in Laodicea, knocking on the door of his church.

When our flesh is crucified we care less about pleasing people and more about pleasing God. We become less concerned with programs and more concerned with God's presence. Fasting is a part of the crucified life. One of the ways we love

God with all of our strength is by emptying our strength by fasting. As hunger for Jesus grows you will go on an extended water fast. What you will experience during the fast is the taste of flesh in your mouth. When you have not eaten for quite some time, you will begin to taste your own flesh, it is then you will begin to understand why we are to put no confidence in the flesh. For all my charismatic, conference-going shofar blowing friends, here is a brief illustration concerning the flesh. I bought a shofar and blew it to be really spiritual; there was just something about it that deeply intrigued me. So one day I put my nose in it and it smelled like a dead person with sweaty feet. This was dead animal flesh in the ram's horn that I smelled. It smelled horrible and the Lord whispered to me "that is what un-crucified flesh smells like to me." So to try to get rid of the smell I would pour anointing oil in it to try to cover the smell and it never worked. The anointing doesn't flow properly unless the flesh is crucified. To get rid of the dead old flesh in the ram's horn I used bleach and it worked just fine. After the flesh was gone the rams' horn could smell like the sweet costly anointing oil that was being poured in. We cannot be led by the spirit if we don't first crucify the flesh. To be resurrected we must first be dead. Jesus was anointed for burial, when we are anointed it is to bring about a death in us so Christ can live his life through us.

For Christ Jesus to live through us, the lusts and affections must also be crucified. The affections aren't necessarily bad, however lust is. Affections can be bad if they are not crucified, but they are not inherently bad like lusts are. Affections would be how you love your mom or little sister, while a lust would be an evil desire you have for a woman who is at church who isn't dressed in a very Christ like manner. When you see "sister let it all hangout out" you may have a pull on your

heart and a focusing of your eyes where they need not be, this is lust. To follow Christ you must love him more than your father, mother and friends. You must love him more than your opinions or the opinions of others. If you are going to follow Jesus, you obviously must love him enough to keep your eyes off of “sister let it all hangout.” It’s necessary to leave your sinful lifestyle behind as well as your love for family, friends and anything that keeps you from obedience to Christ. The rich young ruler could not follow Jesus because he had too much stuff. His lusts kept him from following Jesus. He could go back to church or the synagogue and no one would have known that he passed the opportunity of a lifetime up, but Jesus would always know the truth. You can totally deny Jesus personally and fit in with a group of religious people with no problem. Many people have done it in church for twenty years, denying what God has put in their heart. One of the benefits of having crucified affections is you cannot be offended. When someone is offended it is telling us that their affections are not crucified because they still feel they have the right to be offended. Our affections can get infected if they are not crucified.

Paul said I am crucified with Christ. The cross of Christ didn’t just crucify him, but it crucified you and I if we are truly his. The world is also crucified to us because we are His possession. As His possession we must present our bodies as a living sacrifice, because he did. After Jesus’ resurrection he still bore in his body the proof of his crucifixion. Crucifixion is to bring forth resurrection. Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life.” We are to pass from death to life, so Christ is glorified through us. If we are in him, he will certainly move through us, and that is what the world needs.

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