

# Christ and Him Crucified

## (4a) The Community of the Cross



### Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be radically *cross-centered* and become more and more *cross-cultured*.



### Message Map

1. The Centrality of the Cross
2. The Conquest of the Cross
3. The Calling of the Cross
4. **The Community of the Cross: (a) Christian Cross-Culture Defended**



### Key Text

1 Corinthians 4:8-13

→ "...We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things." (4:13).



### Big Idea

Those who glory in the cross of Christ should actually, on this side of the new heavens and earth, look more and more like it.

#### (1) A Striking Contrast

While the Corinthians claim to have already become kings, the apostles have become, and are still, the scum of the world and the refuse of all things.

#### (2) A Surprising Parallel

While Paul and the apostles might not look anything like the Corinthians, they look an awful lot like their Savior...and His cross!

#### (3) A Doctrinal Divergence

What for the Corinthians is an "already" for Paul and the Apostles is a "not-yet." The power of Christ's resurrection life streams back to us from His throne by His Spirit into this fallen and flipped (upside-down) world, and when it does, we find that it doesn't nullify our own cross-bearing, it empowers it. Resurrection, in an inverted world, looks like crucifixion.

#### (4) A Cruciform Imitation

We are called to imitate Paul as he imitates Christ. We rely on Christ's resurrection power that we might walk His crucifixion road!



### Principled Action

"I die every day!" (1 Cor 15:31)!



### Reflection Questions

- Read the Beatitudes in Mat 5:3-11. How should we interpret these in light of 1 Cor 4:8-13? How have you experienced the Beatitudes in your own life? Which do you particularly struggle with? Which do you particularly hope in?
- What are some of the ways God is calling you right now to rely on His resurrection power to walk His crucifixion road? In other words, how, with whom, in what ways is He calling you to "die every day" so that the glory of His cross may be seen by you and others?