

Christ and Him Crucified

(4b) 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: (b) Christian Cross-Culture Displayed**



Key Text

1 Corinthians

→ “For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men” (4:9).



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) Cross-Culture & Sin (1 Cor 5:1-8)

Grace for us doesn't mean living easy, no worries, tinker with sin, God will forgive you. No! The “grace of God...train[s] us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions...as we wait for our blessed hope, the appearing of...Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us!” (Tit 2:11-14) Grace doesn't put grapes in our mouths as we lazy river our way to heaven, it puts a sword in our hands and bids us fight in the fields of war...that we be holy as the One we love is holy! Cross-culture, by the power of Christ's resurrection Spirit, resists sin to the point of shedding blood (Heb 12:4).

(2) Cross-Culture & Conflict (1 Cor 6:1-11)

Christ lost it all on that cross for us. He was ripped off. We took his riches and He took our poverty. And He did it because of His great love for us. With His infinite riches now ours, do we not have enough in the bank to let others rip us off? Or must we demand our rights? Paul says, such were some of you, but not anymore. Be who you are. Look like the cross!

(3) Cross-Culture & Family Dynamics (1 Cor 1:4-9)

Do we realize the accomplishment of the One we are united to? The Second and Last Adam. Firstborn from the dead. Living in us. Think of the overwhelming possibility and promise for the one united to such a Lord! He has overcome the world and He is in us by His Spirit. There is nothing you, or your brother or sister cannot do in Christ!



Principled Action

Be the theater (1 Cor 4:9)!!!



Reflection Questions

- How does knowing Christ as our Passover lamb motivate our obedience?
- Read 1 Cor 1:4-9, do you believe this for yourself? For others? Is there a believer you would struggle to say this to? Are they any worse than the Corinthians? Or you?
- Read 1 Pet 2:12, how do our actions sometimes open people up to the gospel when our lips haven't prevailed? Any Biblical examples? Any life examples?