

INTRODUCTION TO THE THREE PHASES OF THE CROSS

By Rev. Connie Cox

The subject of this teaching is **The Cross**. We hope to discover more about what Jesus Christ accomplished for us in His life, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. Paul said:

1Co 1:18 NASB For the **word of the cross** is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved **it is the power of God**.

As a result of the word of the Cross: we are able to live a life that is pleasing to God.

Col 1:10 NASB so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

God cares more about the kind of lives we live than the ministry we do. If our lives are totally surrendered to Him, our ministry to the people will be pleasing to Him also.

In the Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus explains how to live the Christian life. He says we must be gentle, pure in heart, humble, peaceable, and people who hunger and thirst after righteousness. Some think it impossible to live like this so they relegate it to the Millennium or to heaven. In this way, we don't have to deal with it now. But the Bible also says we are to be a holy people, conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. He is merciful, gentle and righteous. Therefore we cannot pretend that the Sermon on the Mount is not for us today.

The fact is that there are few living it. But the problem is we really are incapable of living it → without the deep work of the Cross in us.

Only the Holy Spirit working the Cross in us can equip us for living the Christian life and for ministry. This will bring great blessing to us; and glory and honor to the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Gal 6:14 NASB) But may it never be that I would boast [or glory], except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

The disciples were taught by Jesus for three years. They saw the crucifixion, the burial, the resurrection and the ascension of Jesus Christ. He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit". Then, He said, You still are not ready for ministry. You must wait until you receive power from on high.

(Act 1:8 NASB) but **you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you**; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

The Holy Spirit is the power to do the ministry. He is the Teacher, the Helper, and He is the One who brings the power of the Cross into our lives.

Without Him we can do nothing.

With Him nothing shall be impossible.

The Cross is more than a death that occurred over 2,000 years ago. It is more than something we put on our churches or hang around our necks. It is the power of God unto salvation, and it is **the power which changes our lives into the image of Jesus Christ**.

1Co 1:18 For the **word of the cross** is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved **it is the power of God**.

To us who are being saved - salvation is a continuous process that will only end in heaven.

You want power in your life? [Learn about the Cross](#)

You want to preach with power and anointing? [Learn about the Cross](#)

You want to live a victorious Christian life? [Learn about the Cross](#)

You want to lead others to the Lord? [Learn about the Cross](#)

You want to bring honor and glory to God? [Learn about the Cross](#)

It is also a lesson that Satan does not want us to learn. As long as he can keep us from knowing all that Christ did for us on the Cross, he can stop us from living the victorious Christian life, and prevent us from giving glory and honor to God. That is the goal of Satan for us who are Christians.

In the last 50 to 100 years, the full and complete teaching of the Cross has been almost totally lost; and it is because of the work of Satan.

If you read Christian articles and books written before 1900's, they are rich with teaching about the Cross and its work in our lives. In Christian bookstores today you cannot find one of these books. They are either out-of-print or not found in most stores. The stores only have books that will sell quickly and easily.

Here are some of the authors from the past. You can also find some of their books on the internet. Praise the Lord!!! We will give a list of them at the close of this teaching.

There are some teachers and writers who realize the importance of keeping the teaching of the Cross alive. Here are some who wrote many years ago:

Andrew Murray, Watchman Nee, T. A. Hegre, Jessie Penn-Lewis, Oswald Chambers, R. A. Torrey, Dwight L. Moody, Charles Simpson, and others.

I owned a Christian bookstore in 1970's and even then most people were not interested in books on the Cross. They only wanted to read about how they could become rich, how wonderful they were, and how God created them to be blessed by Him.

Ten easy steps to maturity. Six steps to prosperity. Purpose driven church. How to make your church grow. How to be a successful leader. God wants to bless you. How To Live Like A King's Kid. These are the books that are sold today and make the most money!

People say that today is a different time, we need to do things differently now. We need to find new ways to reach people. We need to find out what they want the church to be: what kind of music they like, what kind of preaching they want, and allow them to wear whatever clothes they want to wear. The pastors in the US will often wear jeans or shorts and a T shirt. They say they want to make the people feel comfortable!

The Bible does not tell us that Jesus was trying to make people feel comfortable. He said, "follow Me", "Take up your cross daily"!!! So pastors say, Oh, we can't teach that, people would leave. People left Jesus also when He preached truth to them. In the Upper Room there were only 120 disciples who continued to follow Him. Yet thousands had been healed and had been fed by Him, and had heard Him preach!

The only thing we need today or any other day is to know the Word of God, live the Word, and preach the Word. The Bible does not change and neither does the plan and purpose of God. At the center of the Word is the Cross. It is the **Center Point** of everything in the Christian life.

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of **the gospel**, for **it is the power of God for salvation** to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

The central point of the gospel is the Cross.

No Cross → No salvation!!!

No Cross → No Victorious Christian life!!!

No Cross → No power!!!

We not only need to know about the Cross in our minds - head knowledge - we need to allow the Lord **to do the work of the Cross from inside our hearts.**

We must surrender our lives to God and experience the Cross in order to become disciples.

We will be completely useless to God without the Cross cutting deep into our lives.

1Co 2:2 NASB For I determined **to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.**

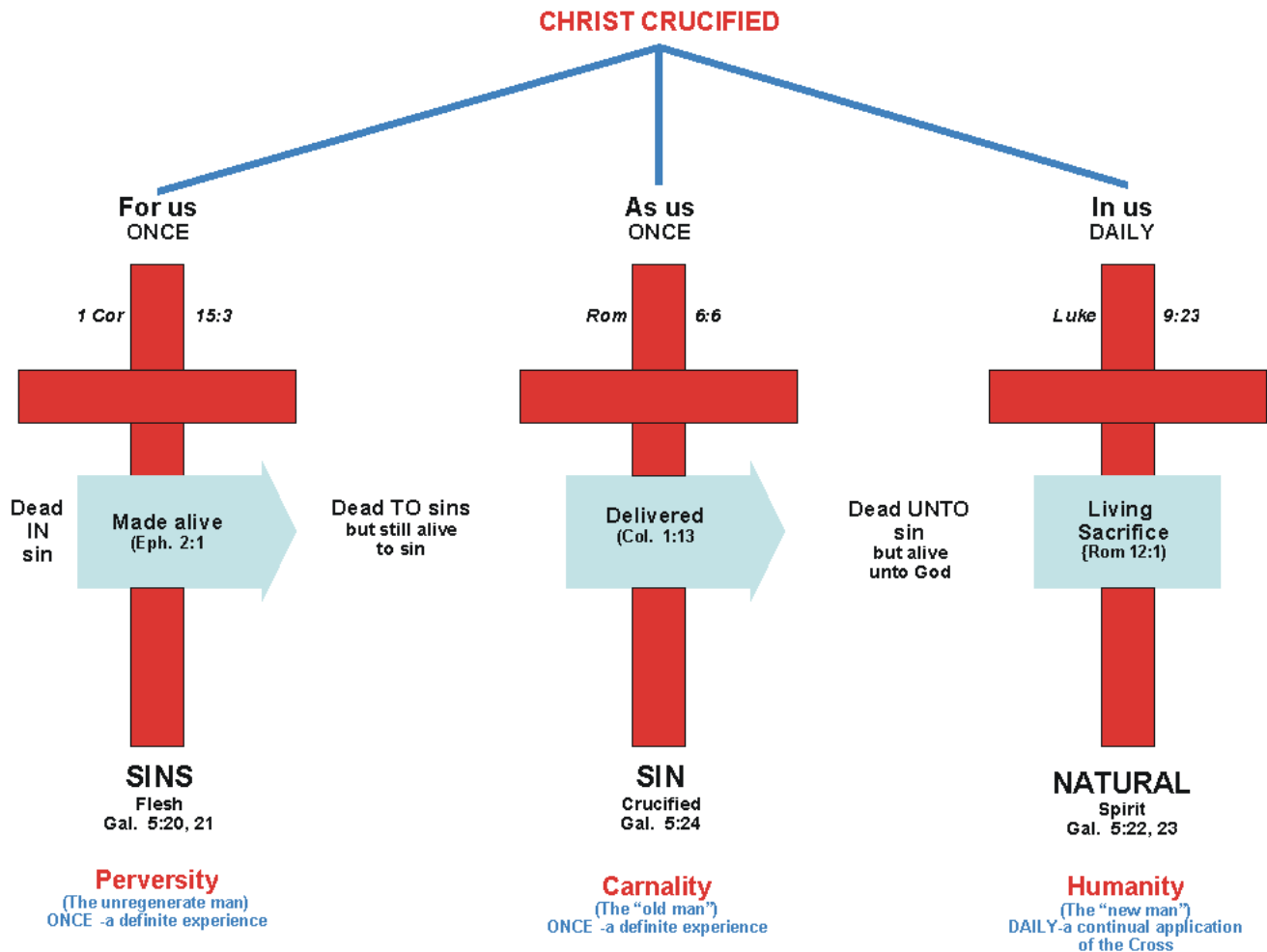
This is maturity, this is power, this is anointing, this is the Christian life.

Only when we truly want a deeper life with God and "**hunger and thirst after righteousness**" will we understand it and be able to live it.

"The Cross is what forms us into the image of Christ."

(a quote from Fenelon, a saint of God from the 1600's)

We are going to teach about three Stages of the Cross. We cannot really divide the Cross into different parts, it is really only one. But for teaching purposes we will present it in 3 stages.



Three Aspects of the Cross

Recreated from illustration in
The Cross & Sanctification
By T.A. Hegre

Please see the last page for list of scriptures that apply to each phase.

#1 Christ crucified FOR us

Deals with the unregenerate man, with corruption - and makes possible forgiveness of sins → **meaning the things we do**

The Cross deals with the unregenerate man - dead in trespasses and sins.

The **blood of the Cross** makes possible salvation and forgiveness of sins.

Rom 5:9 NASB Much more then, having now been **justified by His blood**, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

Conviction comes and the sinner responds; confesses his sins, repents, forsakes his sins, and believes that Christ died for his sins.

#2 Christ crucified AS us

Meaning that we were crucified with Christ.

(Rom 6:6 NASB) knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;

Deals with the "old man", the old sin nature that came from Adam, and makes possible **freedom from the power of sin**.

Here the Cross of Christ deals with carnality - with the flesh (not the world).

So Christ died FOR us - to take away our **sins**.

Christ dies AS us to - take away the **POWER** of sin in us. → **meaning who we are**

#3 Christ crucified IN us

Deals with our humanity, the physical man. It deals with → **the new man**.

It does not deal with sin, but with who we are as a person.

This is the life lived totally in surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Luke 9:23 NASB) And He was saying to *them* all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, **he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.**

Every Christian has some idea about the Cross and its meaning; yet even the most learned student of the Word sees only a part. Our capacity is limited. The volume of our mind is restricted.

The story of the 4 blind men and the elephant will illustrate this.

Four blind men visited the zoo. They wanted to know what the elephant was like, so they asked if they could feel the animal with their hands.

The first man felt the elephant's leg. He said, "it is like a tree".

The second man felt the ear of the elephant. He said, "oh, no, it is like a fan".

The third man walked up to the side of the elephant and said, "it feels like a hollow block wall".

The fourth man felt the trunk of the elephant and he said, "you are all wrong, it is like a rope".

All felt the elephant in part; but did they really see the elephant?

We need a complete revelation of the full meaning of the Cross.

Then we must each appropriate or make use in our lives all of what God shows us.

We must pray and allow God to work inside us the deep and full benefits of the Cross.

We will now discuss more about these 3 things that Christ on the Cross accomplishes for us.

CHRIST DIED FOR US ONCE

Mat 1:21 "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

Joh 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

1Co 15:3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

Eph 2:1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

1Pe 2:24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness ...

Rev 1:5b To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood

CHRIST DIED AS US ONCE

Rom 6:6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;

Rom 6:10-11 For the death that He died, He died to sin once ...(11) Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin ...

2Co 5:14-15 ... one died for all, therefore all died; (15) and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him ...

Gal 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me ...

Gal 5:24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

CHRIST DIED IN US DAILY

Luk 9:23 And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

Psa 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

Joh 12:24-26 "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Rom 15:3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "THE REPROACHES OF THOSE WHO REPROACHED YOU FELL ON ME."

2Co 4:7,11,12 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; (11) For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake ... (12) So death works in us, but life in you.