

Living the Cross and Resurrection (Units 1-5)

Unit 1—Humble confidence

- The cross is the great declaration that God's justice is satisfied and that His love is certain (Romans 5:1-11)(4)
- If we are in Christ we are good enough because when God looks at us He sees us in Christ (5)
- The work of proving myself is unnecessary, it has all been done by Christ (5)
- Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed. For His compassions never fail, they are new every morning, great is your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22-23)(7)
- The cross gives us a proper estimation of ourselves, our righteousness is unmerited, our status is unearned. What we bring is sin and shame, what we receive is an inheritance of joy (8)
- If my righteousness is unmerited and my achievements are God's work in me, I can not claim superiority, I can not look down on other people. Paul says, "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God (Romans 15:7) (9)
- If we have humble confidence our community will not be based on performance and one-upsmanship, nor will it be judgmental and haughty. It will be a community that is open to their brokenness, every person lives as a person who has received divine grace and relates to others on that basis (10)

Questions— Do you have that humble confidence that the cross of Christ gives us? Are you living in a community of folks that are not critical and proud? Are people in your community "open to their brokenness and see themselves as having received divine grace and live accordingly? What steps do you need to take to live a more humble, confident life in Christ?

Unit 2—The way of the cross

- God's great purpose in our life is that we might "be conformed to the likeness of His Son" (Romans 8:29) (11)
- Following Jesus means following the cross, anyone who does not carry his cross can not be my disciple (Luke 14:27) (11)
- To follow the way of the cross means to show sacrificial love, submission to God, willingness to suffer, and service to others (12)
- Whether the subject is giving, relationships with the church or marriage, the cross forms the basis of Paul's teaching. (12)
- The way of the cross is characterized by humility, submission, service and suffering, it is to deny oneself and live for others (13)
- The way of the cross means both martyrdom and washing up, a dying to self and serving others(14)

Questions—How do you daily imitate Jesus in your life now? Do you ever consider yourself a martyr? How will you apply this teaching during the next week as you are commanded to "die to yourself?

Unit 3—The value of Christ

- The way of the cross is a rough task, but we accept because it is also the way of joy (16)
- When we see the value of Christ we will give up everything with excitement and joy (17)
- You reveal the value you put in Christ by what you are willing to risk or to give up for Him (18)
- John Piper says we should not avoid wounded life but should avoid a wasted life(19)
- The way of the cross is not an abstract standard or code, it is not tithing, it is not driving within the speed limit, the way of the cross is the way of Jesus (20)
- When you value Jesus and the way of you cross you see love responding to love, His love wins our hearts (21)

Questions—In what ways do you struggle with the value you put on Jesus? How will you treasuring Christ make a difference when you are feeling miserable? Feeling envious of others? When you struggle in your prayer life?

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Unit 4—Hiddenness and glory

- There is no glory without the cross, Mark tells 2 stories about Jesus opening the eyes of a blind man and the ears of a man who was deaf (22)
- Jesus talks about and sets the example of suffering followed by glory(24)
- The pattern of the cross and resurrection is the pattern of suffering followed by glory (25)
- Jesus said the kingdom of God has come and was already at work transforming lives, bringing peace and healing to the people (25)
- In Jesus the kingdom of God comes through a gracious way, the call to repentance and the gift of salvation (27)

Questions—Do you ever struggle with the pattern of suffering and glory? Have you ever found yourself wanting to bypass the suffering and go straight to the glory? Why do we want glory without suffering? What are we not believing when we fear the suffering?

Unit 5—Suffering and glory

- We share in the Christ's sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory(28)
- To make sense of the continuing reality of this suffering and glory is in part because we are "not yet what we will be" (28)
- We can rejoice in suffering because as we participate in the sufferings of Christ, we find assurance that we will also participate in His glory(31)
- Imagine looking back after a billion years of eternal glory, then our trials will seem light and momentary

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