

**SUBJECT: The Cross**

**TOPIC: The Cross – The Crucified God**

**PROPOSITION: To set forth seven powerful statements made by the Cross**

**OBJECTIVE: That hearers may have a deeper appreciation of the Christ and His Cross and to learn some of the implications of accepting the Cross of Christ as your own.**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. **Read Rom. 5:6 - 10; Phil. 3:7 - 10; I Cor. 2:2.**
2. The cross of Christ is the most powerful symbol in the Christian church.
3. For the ancient world it was scandalous and non-sensical to think of God being crucified.
4. To the modern world it is a mythical story construed by disillusioned followers. I Cor. 1:18, 22-25.
5. Meditate on the cross after reading the crucifixion and related passages such as **Isaiah 53:3-6** and **Psalm 22** and you will have a deep spiritual experience.
6. The cross makes some powerful statements to mankind, and today we want to discuss some of these statements.

**DISCUSSION:** The Crucified God shows--

- I. Shows the power and willingness of God to forgive our sins, which should also influence us to forgive others. **Heb. 9:22; Matt. 6:28; Col. 3:13**
  - (1) Jesus forgave those who crucified him, **Luke 23:34**
  - (2) Stephen forgave those who stone him, **Acts 7:54-60**
  - (3) Saul heard Stephen's prayer of forgiveness and later in his own life, after his conversion to Christ, he would forgive his brethren. **I Tim. 4:16.**
  - (4) Herod and Pilate became friends (were reconciled) because of the powerful influence of Christ. **Luke 23:12.**
  - (5) We today must allow the Cross to impact our lives in the realm of forgiveness and reconciliation. We must forgive one another of the wrongs they have done to us. **Eph. 4:31-32.**
  - (6) **Example of the South African Mother and wife.**

- II. The crucified God shows what sin does and what should be our attitude towards sin.
- (1) Separates us from God, **Isa. 59:2.**
  - (2) Prevents our prayers from being heard, **Jn 9:31**
  - (3) Causes us to lose our souls. **Rom. 6:23; Ezek. 18:4**
  - (4) **Rom. 1:18; I Pet. 2:24.**
- III. The Crucified God demonstrates how we should love each other.
- I Jn 4:11;**
- (1) The new command of Christ is that we love each other,  
**Jn. 13:34.**
  - (2) Our love for each other shows we are followers of Christ,  
**Jn 13:35**
  - (3) Our love for each other must not be hypocritical or superficial,  
**I John 3:16-18**
  - (4) Our love for each other paves the way for us to truly love God, **I Jn 4:20, 21.**
- IV. The Crucified God makes known the necessity of obedience and the price we should be willing to pay to obey God.
- (1) Jesus was obedient to death. He died for us. **Heb. 5:8-9**
  - (2) All that Christ has done is useless without our obedience.
  - (3) His atoning sacrifice is useless without our obedience.
  - (4) His heavenly provisions remain in storage without our obedience.
  - (5) Our entire relationship with God is hinged on our obedience of Christ. **2 Thess. 1:8-9**
  - (6) We obey Christ by obeying the teachings of Christ, **Matt. 28:19-20;.**
  - (7) We begin by obeying the gospel. **Mark 16:15-16**
  - (8) Continue with an obedient heart, **Acts 2:42**
  - (9) Pride prevents obedience, but Christ humbled himself. **Phil. 2:8**