

CRUCIFORMITY

life as Jesus intended

Part 3: *Cruciform Faith*

INTRODUCTION – God In The Flesh

QUALITIES OF A CHRIST-FOLLOWER

1. Identity is an apprentice of and partner with Jesus
2. Actively feeds on truth
3. Engages in authentic community
4. Thinks with the mind of a servant
5. Lives simply and generously
6. Works for peace and reconciliation
7. Committed to helping others follow Jesus

John 5:19; 2 Corinthians 5:19

Getting The Gospel

THE GOSPEL is the Good News message that God became one of us to:

- a) SHOW us his love
(Luke 15:11-32; John 3:16; 5:19; 14:7-10;
Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:19)
- b) SAVE us from sin
(Matthew 9:1-8; Mark 10:45; John 1:29; 12:46-47; 2 Corinthians 5:21;
Ephesians 2:5; 1 Timothy 1:15; 1 Peter 2:24)
- c) SHUT DOWN religion
(Matthew 5:17; John 3:17; 10:10; 14:6-10; 17:3; Romans 6:23;
Ephesians 2:8-10, 14-15; 1 Timothy 2:5)

(Note: In some sense, the entire message of the New Testament is “irreligious” in that it is the story of God doing for us what could not be accomplished through religion.)

Romans 8:1-4

Faith As A Life Orientation

Faith (Greek = *pistis*) =

trust	and/or	trustworthiness,
faith	and/or	faithfulness
belief	and/or	loyalty

Faith in Christ = trusting Jesus in light of his faithfulness; responding to Christ's faithfulness with our own faithful loyalty, devotion, and commitment.

Biblical faith means a new orientation of the heart; what theologians call a “life stance” or “narrative posture”.

John 14:23; Romans 1:5; 16:26

CONCLUSION – Remembering Christ

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. After briefly reviewing this week's message, share one thing that most challenged, convicted, or encouraged you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

2. This week's message talked about *getting* the gospel. Now let's focus on *giving* that message to others. Take time to review the Scriptures in the “Getting The Gospel” section. a) What passage stands out to you the most? Why? b) What questions remain for you regarding the nature of the gospel message? Share your questions and see if others in the group might have ideas that can help lead to answers. c) What aspect of the gospel do you think people in our culture find most difficult to accept? What are some ways you could address this when giving the gospel? d) Now take turns (whether all together, in smaller groups, or in pairs) doing your best to explain the gospel in your own words. Remember that finding your own words (rather than just quoting Bible verses) is key to being able to find words that connect with someone else (e.g., Acts 17:22-34). e) Coming back together, discuss: Are there certain approaches, phrases, words, or concepts that seem best suited to explaining the gospel in our culture today? Are there other approaches that tend to be ineffective? f) What experiences have you had giving the gospel?

SO WHAT?...

3. In two weeks we start a two-week series designed for your unchurched friends called “The Secret Revealed”. Who are you planning to invite? Pray for them together.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, May 13 / 20, 2007