

Truths that Transform, "The Cross," Discussion questions

Pertinent Scripture: *Isaiah 53: 1-11, II Cor 5:15, 21, Gal 2:20; 5:24; 6:14, Col. 1:20; 2:14; Heb 9:22, Heb 12:2, I Peter 2:24-25; 3:18.*

1. Read and meditate upon Isaiah 53. Describe what Jesus had to endure on our behalf. How does this affect you, to think that all your iniquity has fallen on Him?
2. Looking at II Cor 5:21 and using your own words, how do you explain the "Great Exchange"?
3. (Gal. 2:20) If we have been crucified with Christ, how should this affect our efforts to please ourselves, as opposed to the energy we could spend to please God and serve others? What personally helps you stop focusing on self and get the eyes of your heart onto Christ and others?
4. What does it mean in Galatians 6:14 that the world has been crucified to us and we to the world? Where does such an attitude come from? How can this attitude help us resist temptation and glorify God with our lives?
5. (Col 1:20, 2:14) What was man's situation before Christ died for our sin? How do we benefit from the reality of Jesus' work on the cross?
6. What benefit is there of being at peace with God and having our debt of sin cancelled? How does this reality affect us emotionally? How do *you* feel about that?
7. (II Cor 5:15, 21) How ought the reality of our exchange with Christ affect our purpose and priorities in life? Can you share how some of that is happening in you this past week?
8. (II Peter 2:24-25) How does the reality of the cross empower us to deal with patterns of sin in our lives? Is there an area in your life this week where you need to give Jesus your sin and receive His righteousness? By coming back to the Good Shepherd, how has He fed or led you this past month?
9. Galatians 6:4 tells us Christ and the cross should be our only boast. What things do we tend to boast in, whether subtly or not-so-subtly? Practically, how can confidence in the cross become more a reality in your life?