



ENEMIES OF THE CROSS

Philippians 3:18-21

*18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the **enemies of the cross** of Christ: 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.*

The enemies of the cross are those who live their Christianity in disobedience to the Spirit of God. Their end is destruction, their god is their appetite, for glory they will suffer shame, they have set their minds on worldly things.

20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour; the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Ephesians 2:1-3

*1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to **the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience**, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.*

The prince of the power of the air is still at work in the sons of disobedience. He is also at work in the disobedience of those who call themselves Christian. Do you still have your manner of life in the lusts of your flesh? Do you proceed from day to day fulfilling the desires of the flesh? Do you mind earthly things and make yourself an enemy of the cross of Christ?

Colossians 1:21-22

*21 And you, who once were **alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works**, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—*

We have been united together with Christ through the new birth. We have been positioned in His death, His resurrection and His reign. To know the power of His resurrection and in order to reign with Him, we must be willing to fellowship with the cross. This is both positional and experientially lived out on an ongoing day to day basis. We are united with Christ in the likeness of His death in the spirit and conformed to His death by a daily walk of obedience to the Spirit of God. It is this daily agreement through obedience that forges our relationship with God.

Romans 6:5-7

*5 For if we have been **united together in the likeness of His death**, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of*

His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Romans 8:13

*For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you **put to death** the deeds of the body, **you will live.***

Galatians 5:16

*16 I say then: **Walk in the Spirit**, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.*

We have been called to reign in life through Christ. The narrow way to reign is the narrow way of death. It is narrow because most, the many, reject this way. They instead falsify another way, another gospel, one that pleases the flesh. This false way becomes the wide road of destruction.

Romans 5:17

*17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will **reign in life** through the One, Jesus Christ.)*

Colossians 3

*1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 **Set your mind on things above**, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. 5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, 7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.*

Obedience positions us in the cross. It is by daily living in this place of death to self, flesh, the sin nature, that we are daily raised to partake of the life of the risen Christ. Reigning in Him is knowing Christ in our own personal circumstances of life. The wealth of heaven is Christ. To know Him as a friend to become one with Him through the fellowship of His sufferings is to know the wealth of heaven. It is through eating Him becoming one with Him that we partake of Christ. When you partake of Christ you partake of all that is Him. He is burdened for the lost, if you want to reign with Him you will quickly begin to share this burden with Him and will surrender all for the advancement of His hearts goal. You will become willing to give up your pride, your lust, your love of darkness to have Him and to know His heart. Flesh will give way to spirit and you will be willing to surrender all to the cross to gain all. The all you gain is Him and He is all you need. The way to get to this place, the way, the narrow way is obedience to the Spirit. When you obey you reign, you are blessed. It is obedience that commands the blessing!

Deuteronomy 28

1 “Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. 2 And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, **because you obey the voice of the LORD your God:**

8 “The LORD will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

Sacrifice void of OBEDIENCE TO THE SPIRIT is religion and an expression of dead works.

1 Samuel 15:22

So Samuel said: “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.

Romans 12:1

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

A living sacrifice is a life presented to God in obedience. To be submitted to an ongoing, vital giving of self to the cross of obedience.

Romans 6:16

16 Do you not know that to whom you **present yourselves slaves to obey**, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of **obedience leading to righteousness?**

Peter was once an enemy of the cross of Christ.

Matthew 16:21-23

21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. 22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “**Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!**” 23 But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! **You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.**”

Take up the cross and follow Him.

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? 27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

Paul embraced the cross, his cross, the one the Lord had given to him.

Colossians 1:24-25

24 I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, 25 of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God,

Christ speaks to the disciple Ananias and reveals His will concerning Pauls ministry and what he must suffer.

Acts 9:15

15 But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.”

Have you been called to bare His name? Then you too have been called to fellowship with the sufferings of Christ.

Paul outlines his sufferings.

2 Corinthians 11:23-29

23 Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. 24 From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; 26 in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; 27 in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness— 28 besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. 29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation?

Hebrews 13:13-14

*13 Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, **bearing His reproach.** 14 For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.*

Phillipians 3:20-21

*20 **For our citizenship is in heaven,** from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to **His glorious body,** according to the working by which He is able even to **subdue** all things to Himself.*

Before Christ’s church can be a glorious church it must be brought into subjection to Him. He is subduing His body, the church, to become His body. This triumph of Christ becomes a process of subjection or daily obedience. It is with each step of obedience that we take another step toward conformity to His glorious image and become more and more His glorious church. If you are an enemy of the cross of Christ, you will undermine this process and will not become disqualified from becoming a member of His glorious body, His glorious church.

Philippians 3:18

*For many walk, of whom I have told you often, **and now tell you even weeping,** that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:*