



“The Centrality of the Cross”

November 6, 2005

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But may it never be that I should boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Galatians 6:14

Introduction

1. The Bible teaches that eternal salvation is found in Jesus Christ alone.
 - Acts 4:12
 - John 3:36
 - Philippians 2:8-11

2. Why this claim is offensive today.
 - 1 Corinthians 1:17-24

3. Our affirmation of this claim must be reasonably presented, humbly stated, gracefully supported.

Some Corollary Beliefs about Life and Reality

1. There is one God and He is Holy.
2. All people are sinful and therefore separated from God.
3. Sin must be paid for.
4. Jesus Christ died on the cross to atone for our sins.
5. Whoever repents of his sin, and trusts in Jesus Christ for forgiveness shall be saved.

Conclusion

If there are many ways to God, then Jesus Christ died needlessly, and His Father is exceptionally cruel.

November 13, 2005: The Unique Claims of Jesus Christ
November 20, 2005: True Tolerance for the Contradictory Claims of World Religions

For your LIFE GROUP:

1. Why is it so difficult to proclaim the “exclusive” claims of Christ?
2. How can the church be bold in truth AND “generous” in grace?
3. In Acts 5, Peter and the apostles were being threatened for speaking the exclusive claims of Christ. Read 5:21-33. Why were they so bold? Why are we not?
4. This week, see also the apostles’ sermons in Acts 10 and Acts 13.
5. Pray for each other, for GRACIOUS BOLDNESS.