

What the Cross Means to Me

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1. *I am spared from the punishment and judgment I deserved.*
2. *The power of sin is broken over my heart and life. I can be as free from sin as I want and choose to be.*
3. *I am dead to this world and this world dead to me in lifestyle and standing (reputation).*

1. **Jesus was my sin-bearer, the atoning sacrifice, the propitiation for my sin. I am spared from the punishment and judgment I deserve.**

John 1:29 ESV

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

1 John 2:2 ESV

2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 4:10 ESV

10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Romans 3:25 ESV

whom God put forward (NASB - displayed publicly) as a propitiation (*hilastērion* - an appeasing) by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

Isaiah 53:4-5 ESV

4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

The Suffering of the Cross

1. *Scourging*

2. *Crown of thorns*
3. *Loss of blood*
4. *Carrying the cross*
5. *Spikes nailed through hands and feet*
6. *Suffocation and pain of hanging on the cross*
7. *The damnation of Hell*

Matthew 27:45-46 ESV

45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour.

46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

2. **Jesus’ sacrifice far surpassed propitiation. I was made one with, baptized into Christ, in His death for me. The power of sin is broken over my heart and life.**
 - a. *Living free from the sin in my flesh is as simple as a decision (simple but not always easy). I can be as free from sin as I want and choose to be.*
 - b. *Living free from the sin in my flesh is empowered by the focus of my thought life on the Word of God.*

2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV

21 For our sake he made him to be sin (*hamartia - sin, offense, to err, miss the mark, violate God's law*) **who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

1 Peter 2:24 ESV

24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

Romans 6:3 ESV

3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

Romans 6:6-7 ESV

6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

7 For one who has died [baptized into Christ’s death] has been set free from sin.

Colossians 2:11-12 ESV

11 In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,

12 having been buried with him in baptism...

Ephesians 4:22-24 ESV

22 to **put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,**

23 **and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds,**

24 **and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.**

- *Thinking that we have to live in the passions of our flesh and sin, unable to break free, is exactly the lie that the flesh, sin and this world want you to believe. "The heart wants what the heart wants" is the rally cry of Satan and this world system.*

"There's a million reasons why I should give you up, but the heart wants what it wants, the heart wants what it wants." —Selena Gomez

- *This is the very ignorance, because of the hardness of our heart, that alienates us from the life of God which can set us free.*
- *Living in holiness, free from the sin in our members, is as simple as (though not always easy) choosing which clothes to take off and which clothes to put on.*

Colossians 3:1-5 ESV

1 **If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.**

2 **Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.**

3 **For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.**

4 **When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.**

5 **Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.**

- *How do we put to death what is earthly in us? By what we set our minds upon!*
- *The reason why it is that simple is because we died in Christ, baptized into His death, the power of our sin is broken.*

Romans 8:5-6 ESV

5 **For those who live according to the flesh set their minds (*phroneo - to direct one's mind, to exercise the mind, to entertain or interest oneself in*) on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.**

6 **For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.**

Romans 12:2 ESV

2 **Do not be conformed (*sychēmatizō - to conform one's self to another's pattern*) to this world, but be transformed (*metamorphōō - to transfigure, transform, changed into another form*) by the renewal (*anakainōsis - renovation, complete change for the better*) of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.**

- *Don't be systematically squeezed into the world's mold by pressure over time.*
- *As your mind is continually renovated and transformed by the Word of God, so will your life be.*

3. **I am dead to this world and this world dead to me in lifestyle and standing (reputation).
(Galatians 6:14)**

Galatians 6:14 ESV

14 **But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.**

Hebrews 11:24-26 ESV

24 **By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,**
25 **choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.**
26 **He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.**

Matthew 10:24-25 ESV

24 **A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master.**
25 **It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.**

Matthew 10:32-38 ESV

32 **So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven,**
33 **but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.**
34 **Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.**
35 **For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.**
36 **And a person's enemies will be those of his own household.**
37 **Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.**
38 **And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.**