

The Wonderful Cross

Dave Treat | Oct 31, 2010



In a nutshell:

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ forms the core of the gospel, yet we want to move away from the cross. We lack joy and suffer from guilt when we forget the *Wonderful Cross*.

Icebreaker: We love to boast about our luck, our teams, our talents, and our church.

Discuss: What do you like to boast about? Do you see any harm in a little boasting?

Discuss: Read Galatians 6:14. Use more than one translation if available. What do you think it means to "...boast in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...?"

We want to move away from the cross because:

It's easier to think about the *practical*. We like practical and relevant sermons, services and small group studies that help us become "better people."

Discuss: What do you think about the statement: "Jesus did not die so you could be a better person. Jesus died so you could be forgiven?"

It's uncomfortable to think about *pain*. When we see others in pain we often experience pain ourselves. Mostly we think: "Glad it wasn't me."

Discuss: Is it painful for you to think about Jesus on the cross, or to read a description, see a picture, or watch *The Passion of the Christ* and realize you had a role in putting him there?

It's painful to think about *my own sin*. Most sin results from our conscious decisions.

Discuss: How would your life change if you continually asked yourself: "Will this act add to the suffering of Christ?"

To move back to the cross, I must move away from condemnation.

Substitutionary Atonement means that Jesus died in my place so I can be reconciled to God and to others. There is no more condemnation for those whose faith is in what Jesus did on the cross.

Discuss: Are you experiencing the joy of being free from condemnation? What could cause you to slip back into a life plagued by guilt?

As a Group:

Watch *The Passion of the Christ* and/or celebrate communion with your small group.