

Jesus Christ Was Not Alone On The Cross

If we consider ourselves to be a Christian, we identify with Jesus Christ in His sorrow and His joy.

Galatians 2:20 [New King James] *“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.”*

Paul is **not** the only one who identifies with Jesus Christ on the cross.

Colossians 2:20 [New King James] *“You [referring to all Christians] died with Christ ...”*

Romans 6:4 [New King James] *“Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”*

Every true Christian who is baptised by total immersion has died with Jesus Christ.

So what has Paul been inspired by God to tell us?

All true Christians, whether they know it or not as yet, have to share in the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Were you there when they crucified Jesus Christ?

If you are a true Christian, the answer is yes!

What I am saying in modern language is that as a true Christian we identify with Jesus Christ.

We accept Jesus Christ as the one Who died in our stead as payment for our sins, [**Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23**].

We also accept and share in His resurrection.

Ephesians 2:6 [New King James] *“And raised us up together with Jesus Christ ...”*

So we were there on the resurrection morning, [**Colossians 2:13; Colossians 3:1**].

If we agree to be identified in this way with Jesus Christ, as every true Christian must, our lives become attached to His life.

Not only the resurrection but also His death with its pain and sorrow.

Can we accept all this?

Can we be crucified with Jesus Christ?

Only then can we share also in the glory of His resurrection and eternal life with Him, having an intimate relationship with Him for eternity.

John 17:3 [Amplified Bible] *“And this is eternal life, it means to know, to perceive, recognise, become acquainted with and understand You the only true and real God, and likewise to know Him, Jesus as the Christ, the Anointed One, the Messiah, Whom You have sent.”*

The Greek word translated “know” is “gnōskō” used in **Luke 1:34** to describe the intimate relationship between a man and woman in marriage.

A new identity –

What is this new life supposed to be like?

Romans 6:4-8 [New King James] *“Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, **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. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,**”*

The “old man” is referring to our old way of living before we identified with Jesus Christ as our Saviour from eternal death.

How do we “crucify” our old life?

Romans 12:1-2 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

The key word in this scripture is “bodies” which is the Greek word “soma” referring to the whole life, our physical body, our mind and “human” spirit, [Job 32:8]. It is after this personal sacrifice that the Holy Spirit will then begin to re-educate us to know how to live this new life, [John 16:13].

Paul then gives us a list of things that need to change in our new lives beginning with humility, [**Romans 12:3-21**].

Romans 6:11-13 [New King James] *“Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. **And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.**”*

“Instruments of righteousness” – what does this involve?

John 16:7-8 [New King James] *“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.”*

It is the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives that will show us true righteousness which is not the result of our own efforts to obey God’s law, as the Pharisees sought to do.

Romans 4:13, 16, 18-24 [New King James] *“For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.” ... “Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all” ... “who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. **He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He***

was also able to perform. And therefore 'it was accounted to him for righteousness.' Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead,"

True righteousness, that is accepted by God the Father, is the righteousness of Jesus Christ imputed or credited to us as a result of our faith in what God the Father has done for all humanity, [John 3:16-17].

John 7:38-39 [New King James] *"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."*

The "living waters" is the acts of loving righteousness that flows out of us from the active Holy Spirit in us to other human beings that we come in contact with on a day-to-day basis.

Matthew 5:14-16 [New King James] *"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*

The end product of our being "instruments of righteousness" is other people coming to know and worship the one and only true God.

Matthew 16:24-26 [New King James] *"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. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 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?'"*

If we are to be disciples of Jesus Christ, that is true Christians, we have to crucify our old lives and follow Him.

Mark 8:34-35 [New King James] *"When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, 'Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.'"*

Note the end goal of this surrender of our lives to our Saviour Jesus Christ is *"for the sake of the gospel,"* that is reaching out to as many people as God allows us, with the good news of why we are human beings, and what God the Father has done for all humanity through the life, death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Luke 9:23 [New King James] *"Then He said to them all, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.'"*

Notice that this surrender of our lives to Jesus Christ is not just a "one-off" but something we do every day.

This surrender to our Saviour Jesus Christ is not something we can do without great thought, for it is a well-considered total surrender.

Luke 14:26-30 [New King James] *"If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it, lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'"*

This new life will not be easy, for it will involve persecution.

2 Timothy 3:12 [New King James] *“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”*

Even from our own family, [**Matthew 10:21-23; Matthew 24:9-10; John 16:2**].

But the end product of such a life surrendered to Jesus Christ will be eternal life, so very well worth the pain involved.