



HCF Core Values

The Cross – Part 3

The Cross - We value the *cross of Jesus Christ*. Christ's atoning sacrifice is the most important event in the history of creation. The cross was the fulfillment of Christ's work as our High Priest and the full payment for the redemption of mankind from his sins. In the cross we have the complete work of justification, which is available to us by Grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. The cross is central to the attitude of Christian living and the supreme example of God's love to mankind. If there ever was an act of divine wonder to worship and glory in, it is the cross of Jesus Christ!

In the cross we have the complete work of justification, which is available to us by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. – At the cross we see God's amazing work of salvation displayed in the work of justification. *We value the cross because there we have been justified before God.* Justification is a legal term describing the act whereby God declares us righteous based on the merits of Christ. This justification is a complete work of God whereby He declares the sinner righteous. In this work God.....

- satisfies and appeases the divine requirements of justice - **Propitiation**
- completely removes the guilt of our sins, - **Expiation**
- credits the righteousness and merit of Christ to the believer – **Imputation**
- restores relationship and rightstanding with God - **Reconciliation**

It is clear from scripture that in the death of Christ upon the cross, that God's wrath because of sin has been satisfied by Christ's payment of death. This is called **“propitiation.”** Because Jesus was without sin, His was qualified to pay the debt for all sin by His death. He died as a substitute or in place of sinners, and bore the wrath of God Himself. We value the cross because the death of Christ affected a real and fundamental change in our relationship to God by taking our place and bearing the guilt of our sins as an offering to appease the holy wrath of God.

1 John 4:10 - 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and **sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.** NASB

We value the cross because there Jesus paid a very real price.....He literally bore the penalty for our sins! Our chastisement became His! He carried our griefs....and our sorrows! Let's look at how this was expressed by the prophet Isaiah.....chapter 53...

Isaiah 53:4-6, 11-12 - 4 Surely **our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried;** Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But He **was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.** 6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the **LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.** 11 As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By

His knowledge the Righteous One, **My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities.** 12 Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet **He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.** NASB

We value the cross because there the actual guilt of sinners has been removed by Christ's payment, because He paid the full price of that guilt. This is called **"expiation."** Jesus removed our guilt having paid the full price of redemption for sins. Christ made a fundamental change in our relationship with God by expiating our guilt. Having paid the full price of our sin by His death, **our guilt was removed.** We were bought with a price, a ransom.....we were redeemed by the price of the sinless Son of God, Jesus Christ. Our guilt has been canceled because the debt of it has been paid. All of this was done by God.....it is God who justifies.....and so the scripture says...

Colossians 2:13-14 - 13 And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, 14 **having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us** and which was hostile to us; and **He has taken it out of the way,** having nailed it to the cross. NASB

Romans 8:33-34 - 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? **It is God who justifies.** 34 **Who is he that condemns?** Christ Jesus, who died — more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

1 Timothy 2:5-7 - 5 For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 6 **who gave Himself as a ransom for all,** the testimony borne at the proper time. NASB

This is why the scripture can say, there is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. The guilt of our sins has been removed.

Romans 8:1-2 - 8:1 There is **therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.** 2

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. NASB Now having our guilt removed and God's wrath because of our sins satisfied, we also have the righteousness of Christ credited to us. This is called **"imputation."** Jesus perfect righteousness has become ours through faith in Him. We can stand in God's presence because Jesus has imputed His righteousness and holiness to us through His sacrificial death on the Cross. It is clear from scripture that Christ's perfect righteousness is now ours by faith, and why the scripture addresses believers as blameless.

1 Corinthians 1:30-31 - 30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, **who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,** 31 that, just as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord." NASB

Hebrews 10:14 - 14 For **by one offering He has perfected for all time** those who are sanctified. NASB

Romans 5:19 - 19 For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so **through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.** NASB

2 Corinthians 5:21 - 21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, **that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.** NASB

Colossians 1:21-22 - 22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to **present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation-**

Therefore when we say that the sinner is **"declared righteous"** by God it is because the sinner is not actually righteous in himself but in Christ has received a **foreign righteousness which is not his own, but is from God in Christ.** Since Jesus life was one of sinless perfection, this righteousness which is received is also therefore perfect.

Philippians 3:8-10 - 9 and may be found in Him, **not having a righteousness of my own** derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, **the righteousness which comes from God** on the basis of faith, NASB

Romans 3:21-24 - 21 But now apart from the Law **the righteousness of God** has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even **the righteousness of God**

through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified as a **gift by His grace** through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; NASB

And all of this has brought about Justification before God.

Romans 5:9- 9 Much more then, **having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.** NASB

All of these benefits of Justification come to us on the basis of **Grace alone** (we did not deserve them, but they are God's gift), **by Faith alone** (only because we trust Christ and His sufficient work for them), **in Christ alone** (He alone has satisfied the Father both in the penalty of death and the perfect life of righteousness for us).

Grace alone is the means by which we are brought into this reconciliation with God. This is to say that salvation *is a gift by God's free grace* and not based on anything we have done. In fact, we have merited God's wrath and displeasure by our sins and were completely unable to understand the things of God or please Him in any respect, but God caused us to be born again by the washing of regeneration, even when we were dead in transgressions and sins. The faith itself by which we believed was the gift of God to us.

Romans 11:5-6 - 5 In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice. **6** But **if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.** NASB

Ephesians 2:4-6,8-9 - 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, **5** **even when we were dead in our transgressions,** made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), **8** For by **grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;** **9** not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

NASB

Romans 3:23-24 - 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** **being justified as a gift by His grace** through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; NASB

It is by **Faith alone** that we lay hold of this justification so that *there is nothing in our person which merits for us God's favor* except that when we trust Christ with our God-given faith, He satisfies His justice for our sins and imputes to us His spotless righteousness. What did you do to earn God's favor?, you trusted in Christ's finished work. If you are trusting in anything else, you cannot be saved. It is by faith alone that we are reconciled to God.

Romans 3:21-24 - 21 But now apart from the Law **the righteousness of God** has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, **22** even **the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe;**

Philippians 3:8-10 - 9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but **that which is through faith in Christ,** the righteousness which comes from God **on the basis of faith,** NASB

Christ alone and His perfect finished work on the cross is the object on which our faith is founded. He has satisfied the divine requirements of justice for our sins and lived a perfect sinless life for us that we could never live. The scripture says that *He has become for us our righteousness* and sanctification. There is no other way to be reconciled to God the Father except through the finished work of God's own Son. All other ways of salvation are in fact false and do not lead to reconciliation with God.

1 John 5:12 - 12 He who has the Son has the life; **he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.** NASB

John 3:36 - 36 "He **who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life**, but the wrath of God abides on him." NASB

1 Corinthians 1:30-31 - 30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, **who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption**, 31 that, just as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord." NASB

2 Corinthians 5:21 - 21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, **that we might become the righteousness of God in Him**. NASB

Here now is the reason why Jesus is the only way to the Father, as He states in...

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; **no one comes to the Father, but through Me**." NASB

There is NO OTHER sinless perfect man to die for the sins of others because all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God(Rom 3:23). Therefore, no one is worthy to pay the price for the sins of others. Either Christ will pay the penalty for your sins or you will. And this price is the cost of death, eternal separation from God(2 Thes 1:9).

Mankind cannot be righteous through works or deeds, but only through the imputed righteousness of Christ.

Romans 3:20 - 20 because by **the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight**; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin. NASB

You see the problem is that mankind has sinned against God incurring the penalty that God's justice demands which is death(Rom 6:23). In order for you to pay the penalty for your sin, you would have to die spiritually,(be separated from God forever), that is the just penalty for sin.

Therefore there is no other way to be saved from the consequences of sin except through the sacrifice of Christ at Calvary.

Acts 4:12 - 12 "And **there is salvation in no one else**; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved." NASB

Here then is the great good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ! Jesus has done the work, He has merited the favor of God, whom we have offended. We now simply have to trust in and rely upon the finished work of Christ to be saved from the penalties of our sins.

John 6:29 - 29 Jesus answered and said to them, "**This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.**" NASB

More than this, Christ has purchased for us access to every promise of God.

2 Corinthians 1:20 - 20 For as many as may be **the promises of God, in Him they are yes**; wherefore also by Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us. NASB

We sinned against God and earned death, God offers to us eternal life through Jesus Christ the Lord!

Romans 6:23 - 23 For the **wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord**. NASB