

Responding to the Cross

I. Introduction

A. The crucifixion of Jesus is in many ways the centerpiece of God's part in our salvation. It also serves as great motivation for us to do *our* part. Consider seven examples of things God demands of us that are strongly aided by understanding and reflecting on the cross.

II. Sacrifice

A. The sacrifices and self-denial God requires of us can be challenging, but such is the only appropriate response to what Jesus has done for us. As the hymn says, "Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all." The cross of Christ should motivate us to give our lives to the One who gave Himself for us. **2 Corinthians 5:15**; *Song 189, verse 4*; *Song 340*; **Romans 12:1**

III. Transformation

A. Surrendering our lives to God requires undergoing a spiritual metamorphosis. Just as Christ died, was buried, and rose from the dead, we must "die to sin," "bury" our sinful past, and "rise" to "walk in newness of life." Christ's crucifixion serves as a motivation for this transformation. **Galatians 2:20**; **Romans 6:3-4**

IV. Purity

A. Christ's crucifixion allows us to be rescued *from* (not "in") our sins. The opportunity to be freed from the enslavement of sin should motivate us to purify our lives. Moreover, Christ's crucifixion shows us the ugliness of sin, given the price that had to be paid to atone for it. Such should encourage a proper abhorrence of evil. **Titus 2:14**; **Romans 12:9**

V. Humility

A. The cross is also great motivation for humility. It is humbling to consider how great a price had to be paid so we could escape eternal torment. The cross is a humbling reminder of how hopeless we are without Jesus. *Song 189, verse 1*; **1 Peter 2:24**

B. Given how hopeless we are without Jesus, arrogantly boasting in self is proven foolish. Our "boasting" should instead center on what *He* has done. **Galatians 6:14**

VI. Gratitude

A. Understanding the role of the cross in our lives should make us not only humble, but also thankful. The love shown toward people who have treated Him so terribly, and the justification, salvation, and reconciliation He has made possible, are cause for gratitude. **Romans 5:6-11**

VII. Zeal

A. Christ's crucifixion is also a great motivation for zeal. The need we have to be zealous for Christ and the good works He promotes is aided by consideration of what He has done for us. **Titus 2:14**

VIII. Endurance

A. Moreover, the suffering Jesus endured provides an example that should motivate us to likewise endure trials while steadfastly holding to what is right. **Hebrews 12:1-3**

IX. Conclusion

A. Reflecting on the cross of Christ serves as motivation to be humble, grateful to Him, and zealous for Him, seeking the freedom from sin He offers. The cross should prompt us to give our lives to the One who gave Himself for us and endure trials steadfastly, as He did for us.