

## The Power of the Cross

Dr. John Carmichael

[1Jo 2:2 NASB] 2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for [those of] the whole world.

[1Jo 4:10 NASB] 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.

- Pastor Steve Furtick has been criticized for using different language this Easter. His point is that people are so unchurched today that they do not understand the language. Therefore, he used terms that are easy to understand.
- Whether you agree or not, the fact is that people do not understand the cross, why Jesus died on the cross, and what Jesus dying on the cross means to them.

What did Jesus dying on the cross mean for us?

Here are four ways to describe the power of the Cross and what it means to us.

### I. **Recapitulation: God became like us so we can become like Him**

- a. [Jhn 1:14 NASB] 14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- b. [Rom 5:14-15 NASB] 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. 15 But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.
- c. Irenaeus: Jesus became what we are, that He might make bring us to be even what He is Himself.
- d. Through, Jesus, we can rise above the brokenness of our beginning, and become all that God has called us to become.
- e. Stop allowing your brokenness to become your barrier. He is making you whole so that we can fulfilled the God-birthed destiny. No excuses. We can overcome!

### II. **Penal Substitutionary: God made us righteous.**

- a. [2Co 5:21 NASB] 21 He made Him who knew no sin [to be] sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
- b. The exchange... good for us. Jesus took your "whoopin"
- c. We were sinners saved by grace... BUT now we are righteous because of Jesus!
- d. God is not looking at you on the basis of your sins... when He sees you, He sees Jesus!
- e. Let go of guilt, condemnation... you are free and forgiven.

### III. **Christus Victor: God gave us the win.**

- a. [Col 1:13-14 NASB] 13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
- b. Liberated from sin and satan.
- c. [Col 2:14-15 NASB] 14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.
- d. [Rom 8:37 NASB] 37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

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- e. You can win the battle through Jesus Christ. No more loser mentality. No more “I can’t.” You can because He did!

### IV. Moral Influence/Example: God loves us and in our example.

- a. [Rom 5:8-10 NASB] 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath [of God] through Him. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.
- b. [1Jo 4:19 NASB] 19 We love, because He first loved us.
- c. Example/Influence:
  - i. Sanctification
  - ii. Spirit-led
  - iii. Servanthood
- The power of Cross means:
  - No more excuses. Pursue what God has called you to pursue.
  - No more condemnation: As you have turned to Him, He has cleansed you.
  - No more defeatist mindset: Jesus’ victory is yours. Expect to succeed.
  - No more selfish living: Jesus gave His all for us. We give our all for Him and others.