

The Power of the Cross

1 Corinthians 1:18

Outline

- * Introduction
- * Background
- * The Cross has the power to:
 - **Reason 1: Divide People
 - **Reason 2: Condemn People
 - **Reason 3: Deliver People
- * Conclusion/Invitation

Background to the Cross

Symbology: A sign of shame

A means to carry out executions

2nd Century: cross as a religious sign

6-7th Centuries: crucifix (Christ/cross)

Biblical Authority: None

The Cross has the Power to: **Divide People**

- “Drawing the Line” –stay or go beyond (transgress)
- **1 Corinthians 1:18-23- BELIEF is key- Mark 16:16**
- **Luke 23:39-43** –Even on the cross, it divided men.

The Cross has the Power to: **Divide People**

- The cross divides the identity of men- **Galatians 6:14**
- **2 Corinthians 5:17**- NEW identity not “fixed” the old
- **2 Corinthians 6:14** –Light vs. Dark –Ephesians 5:8

The Cross has the Power to: **Condemn People**

- Let's compare: **2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 & John 5:24**
- Condemnation = Separation & Torment (punishment)
Matthew 25:31, 41-46
- **Matthew 10:28-** Fear God. Destroy body/soul in Hell.

The Cross has the Power to: **Condemn People**

- IT DOES NOT HAVE TO BE THAT WAY!

• JOHN 3:18

“ He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

The Cross has the Power to: Deliver People

Romans 6:9-10- Christ triumphed over death; so do we
Colossians 2:11-13.

2 Corinthians 5:21- Christ bore our sins.

What should we do? **1 Peter 2:24**; Romans 6:3-4

The Cross has the Power to: Deliver People

Romans 8:1-2

“ There is therefore now **no condemnation** to them which are **in Christ Jesus**, who **walk not after the flesh**, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life **in Christ Jesus** hath **made me free** from the law of **sin and death.**”

Invitation

Hear

Believe

Repent

Confess

Be Baptized

--Live faithfully

Repent

Confess

Pray

--Remain faithful