

The Cross

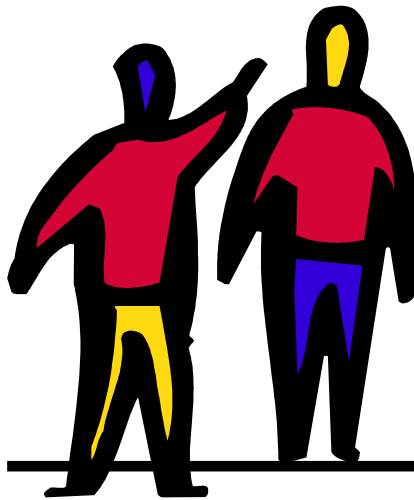
“Never build your preaching of forgiveness on the fact that God is our father and He will forgive us because He loves us. . . . It is shallow nonsense to say that God forgives us because He is love. **The only ground on which God can forgive me is through the cross of my Lord.**”

-Oswald Chambers

“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.” **1 Cor. 1:18**

“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.” **Gal. 6:14**

“In whom we have redemption **through his blood**, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace” **Ephesians 1:7**



Pleasing Men or Serving Christ

A railway gatekeeper who one cold night required every passenger to show his ticket before passing through to the train and was rewarded with considerable grumbling and protesting, was told: “You are a very unpopular man tonight.” “**I only care to be popular with one man,**” was the reply, “and that is the superintendent.” He might have pleased the passengers, disobeyed orders, and lost his position. He was too wise for that; his business was to please one man - the man who hired him, gave him his orders, and rewarded him for faithfulness, and who would discharge him for disobedience. The servant of Christ has many opportunities to make himself unpopular. There are multitudes

who would be glad to have him relax the strictness of his rules. If he is their servant, they demand that he should consult their wishes. **But if he serves them, he cannot serve the Lord.** “No man can serve two masters.” He who tries to be popular with the world, will lose his popularity with the Lord. He will make friends, but he will lose the one Friend who is above all others. He will win plaudits, but he will not hear the gracious words: “Well done thou good and faithful servant!” [Matt.25:21]

“[Christian disciples] must remember that they [are to] **serve Christ first of all.** To be double-minded and try to serve two masters will lead to trouble (**Matt. 6:24**); singleness of heart means **the heart is fixed on pleasing Christ,** and not on worldly gain.

A true pastor must be a servant. He must have a servant’s mind (Phil. 2) and be willing to put **Christ first**, others second, and self last. This is not always easy to do! We must pray for our spiritual leaders, that God will give them grace and strength to be servants to others.” - Warren W. Wiersbe, *Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the New Testament*



A little boy, who was told by his mother that it was God who makes people good, replied, “Yes, I know it is God, **but mothers help a lot.**”

Paul said to Timothy “...without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day; ... When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, **which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice;** and I am persuaded that in thee also. **2 Tim 1:3,5**