

- True faith in Jesus does not stop at admiration; it always brings us to **participation** with His cross.

24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. Galatians 5:24

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." Luke 9:23

And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Matthew 10:38

How we participate in Jesus' death:

We're willing to **die** ourselves.

Jesus is our greatest **priority**.

Willing to endure public **criticism**.

Willing to **submit** to God's Will.

Those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh. Galatians 5:24

Why Jesus had to die on the cross:

- To **reconcile** us to God and give us **new life**.

23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. 24 Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. Romans 3:23-24
21 For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:21

- Being righteous doesn't mean you're **perfect**, and you won't continue to struggle with **sin**.

God's Spirit moves into our lives and puts within us a desire to **not sin**, while our flesh continues to **desire sin**.

- Jesus went to the cross to fulfill God's **prophetic plan**.

"Now is my soul troubled... But for this purpose I have come to this hour." John 12:27

8 And all the people who belong to this world worshiped the beast. They are the ones whose names were not written in the Book of Life that belongs to the Lamb who was slaughtered before the world was made. Revelation 13:8

19 It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. 20 God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but now in these last days he has been revealed for your sake. 1 Peter 1:19-20

- Jesus went to the cross so the **Holy Spirit** could come and dwell within us.

38 Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'" 39 (When he said "living water," he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory.) John 7:38-39

"It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you." John 16:7

The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. Romans 8:11

"The law of the Spirit of life has set you free from the law of sin and death." Romans 8:2

"Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh." Galatians 5:16

"By the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body." Romans 8:13

5 Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. 6 So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. 7 For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. 8 That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God. 9 But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.) 10 And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God. 11 The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you. 12 Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. 13 For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. Romans 8:5-14

if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live. Romans 8:13a

- Jesus went to the cross to defeat the power of **sin**.

"Our old self was crucified with Him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with." Romans 6:6

"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness." 1 Peter 2:24

10 When he (*Jesus*) died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God. 11 So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus. Romans 6:10-11

The flesh doesn't care if you continue to sin and go to hell,
because **it's not going with you**.

VISION:

**TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE
IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.**

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

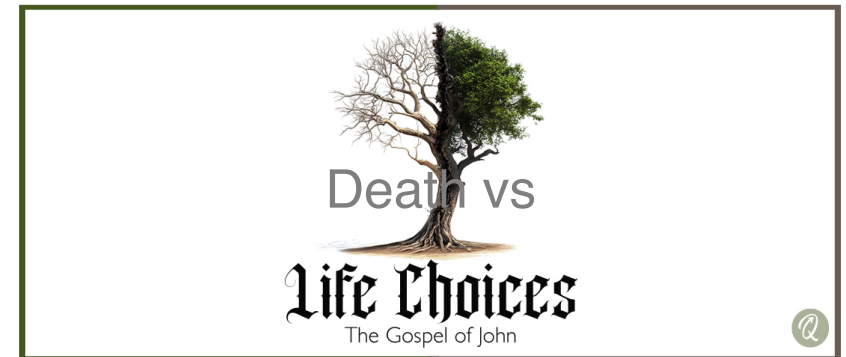
- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain.
- What does it practically look like to move from admiring Jesus Christ to actually participating in His cross in daily life?
- Which area of your life is hardest to surrender to God's will, and why?
- In your own words, what does it mean to carry our cross and die to ourselves?
- How do you personally handle criticism or opposition because of your faith?
- What does it mean to you that righteousness doesn't equal perfection, yet still calls you to holiness?
- How have you experienced the Spirit giving you new desires that conflict with your flesh?
- Which truth about the cross (reconciliation, defeating sin, fulfilling prophecy, indwelling Spirit) impacts your walk with God the most right now, and why?

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Today's Talk..



Why the cross was necessary (Part 2)

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Sunday, February 15th, 2026