

Things Connected to the CROSS

Introduction

1. “. . . Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word” (Eph 5:25- 26).
2. God meets sinners only at the cross -- on His terms not ours.
3. The cross is central & powerful so things connected to it are critical & powerful.
4. The power is there, but we must be connected to it (1 Corinthians 1:17).

I. The New Testament

1. Jesus said, “For this is My blood of the covenant [testament], which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins” (Matthew 26:28).
2. The Bible is a book about blood.
3. More than four hundred times, the Bible mentions “blood.”
4. Had man written it, he would have covered it with sunshine; God, the One who wrote it, stained it with blood.
5. Too many think the cross of Christ was defeat and His resurrection was victory.
6. The NT only reveals death as the victory.
7. Hebrews 9:15, 16 pictures Jesus as the mediator of a new covenant, or testament.
8. A testament (or will) is good only at death.
9. Jesus took the power of death from Satan through His death.
10. The resurrection validates the death!
11. Jesus won at the cross.
12. “. . . And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him” (Col 2:14, 15).
13. Jesus is the key to the Scriptures & He is implied in every verse.
14. To know Jesus, read the Bible, not some theological study written by man.
15. The “Living Word” is only found in the “Written Word.”
16. Many people are labeled according to their religious opinions (they are not biblical words)
17. We must want to be just Christians, period!
18. The issue is authority: Will we go by the Bible or not?
19. Let us just be members of Christ’s church . . . no more, no less.
20. Would you have liked to be a member of the first-century church? You can!
21. God will add you to it, if you follow His Word.

II. New Testament Church

1. Jesus promised Peter that He would build His church (Matthew 16:13–20).
2. He purchased the church with His own blood (Acts 20:28).
3. He loved the church and gave Himself for it (Ephesians 5:22–30).
4. Just as a husband ought to love his wife, Jesus loved the church and gave Himself that He might present to Himself a glorious church at the end of time (vv. 25–27).
5. The benefits of His blood come in, through, and by His church.
6. You cannot separate Christ from His church.
7. The physical body of Christ purchased the spiritual body of Christ.
8. The church is “God’s forever family.”

9. Nothing on earth is like it.
10. Nothing on earth can do what the local church does when it is doing right.
11. All that Jesus left upon the earth was His church.
12. He did not die for man-made organizations.
13. Christ is head over all things to the church, which is His body (Eph 1:22, 23; Col 1:18).
14. Unity and equality are only found in God's church.
15. Jesus broke down the wall, reconciling both to God in one body through the cross (Ephesians 2:13–22).
16. The church is one, not many.
17. Some say, "The church cannot save you!"
18. Correct! Christ is the Savior—the church is the saved.
19. God adds the saved to the church (Acts 2:41–47).
20. If you are saved, you have been added; if you have been added, you are saved.
21. There are no saved people outside the church.
22. New Testament Church
23. Some say, "I'm against organized religion!"
24. Or, "I love Christ, but I reject the church."
25. The greatest joy of happily married men is their wives.
26. They would never let harm come to them.
27. Who would wish to stand before God having harmed Christ's church, His bride?
28. Christ is going to present to Himself a glorious church not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing (Ephesians 5:27).

III. **The Lord's Day, The Lord's Supper**

1. Culture cries, "Love, love, love," while refusing to define "love."
2. Culture cries, "Believe in believing."
3. Culture cries, "It doesn't make any difference what you believe—just be good, honest, and sincere."
4. If you are "good, honest, and sincere," then it matters what you believe!
5. What is the latest culture cry?
6. Culture cries, "Jesus" or "Jesus is Lord."
7. Jesus silenced that view of Himself.
8. He said, "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" (Luke 6:46); He said, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter" (Matthew 7:21).
9. He will say to these, "I never knew you" (Matthew 7:23).
10. The Lord's Supper connects with the cross.
11. The early church steadfastly assembled every Lord's Day (Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1, 2; Hebrews 10:25; Revelation 2:10).
12. The Lord's Supper was placed in the assembly.
13. The Christian does not partake alone and then assemble.
14. The church that does not assemble cannot survive.
15. As a community, the church has a life of its own (Acts 2:42).
16. When the church assembles, Christ is present!
17. Jesus is the host, not the guest!
18. The Lord's Supper is not a church sacrament that forgives us—it is a memorial declaring that we are the forgiven.
19. Jesus only has one command: "Follow Me."
20. He only has one request: "Remember Me" (Matt 26:26–29; 1 Cor 10:16; 11:23–26).

21. He has: one Bible, one bread, one cup, one body, one blood, and one covenant.
22. Here is a good rule: The Lord's Supper every Lord's Day; and no Lord's Day without the Lord's Supper!
23. Think what was used: The unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine.
24. These emblems represent His body.
25. It would be unthinkable to substitute anything for the bread and the cup.
26. The church does not grow on religious holidays, but it does grow on the Lord's Supper!
27. To fail here is to make the church weak and sickly (1 Corinthians 11:23–30).
28. The Lord's Supper is the greatest memorial on earth.
29. Every member can participate.
30. The focus is on the Word, the cross, and His forgiveness!
31. Members examine themselves.
32. Members "proclaim the Lord's death until He comes" (1 Corinthians 11:26).
33. This is why we take the Lord's Supper to those who are unable to leave their homes.
34. They, too, are part of the body.
35. The Lord's Supper is the one memorial around which the church rallies!

IV. **Baptism (Immersion)**

1. All of us must raise (and answer) the question "What must I do to be saved?"
2. Some suggest "The Sinner's Prayer," based on Luke 18:9–14, when the tax collector prayed, "God, be merciful to me, the sinner!"
3. To offer this as a way to salvation exposes our failure to study the Word or our failure to accept the Word, or both.
4. Both the Pharisee and the tax collector were Jewish brethren at the temple.
5. One was proud; the other was contrite.
6. This parable of Jesus was before the cross, the Great Commission, the gospel, the Book of Acts, the Day of Pentecost, and the church.
7. This incident was not about salvation.
8. Jesus was not known, needed, or mentioned in this story!
9. Baptism connects sinners with the cross.
10. Read Romans 6:3.
11. In this act we contact the blood of Jesus.
12. It is the only place on earth where a non-Christian can.
13. Therefore, it must not be reduced to a meaningless church ritual.
14. No religious word upsets people more than "baptism."
15. If baptism is useless, why get angry about it?
16. The fact is that a non-baptized Christian is foreign to the Scriptures after Jesus went back to heaven.
17. Baptism is an important event in salvation.
18. Jesus put baptism in His Great Commission (Mark 16:15, 16).
19. Sinners are baptized into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18–20).
20. The heart of the gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (1 Corinthians 15:1–4); sinners are baptized into His death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:3–6; Colossians 2:12).
21. In baptism one accepts the Lord and is clothed with Him (Galatians 3:26–28).
22. In scriptural baptism a sinner becomes a Christian (Acts 2:38).
23. Baptism is not a meritorious work of man, but the work of God.
24. Each sinner must: hear, believe, repent, and confess Jesus.
25. No one can do these things for me, but someone else had to baptize me!
26. Sinners, literally, "receive baptism."

27. Twelve men were “rebaptized by Paul” in Ephesus because they had been baptized incorrectly (Acts 19:1–7).
28. Paul believe that baptism was important and that it should be done correctly.
29. Baptism saves (1 Peter 3:20, 21).
30. The Jews on the Day of Pentecost needed to be baptized (Acts 2).
31. The Ethiopian nobleman also needed to be baptized (Acts 8:26–40).
32. Paul even needed to be baptized (Acts 9; 22:16).
33. Cornelius, needed to be baptized (Acts 10).
34. Who can read all these passages and not conclude that all accountable people need to be baptized?

V. **The Crucified Life**

1. The cross results in the crucified life.
2. Paul said, “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me . . .” (Galatians 2:20, 21).
3. Jesus lived the life before He died the death.
4. Salvation is free, but it costs us everything—our lives!
5. In the historical sense, Jesus is risen; but in the holy sense, He is still on the cross.
6. The church was brought into existence through the cross and lives as an expression of the cross.
7. Jesus calls us to die as Paul died daily (1 Cor 15:31).
8. We come to the cross; we live at the cross.
9. “Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory” (Colossians 3:1–4).
10. The crucified Savior can be communicated best by crucified servants.
11. The church can only learn how to live when it has the courage to die.
12. The church must never be more like the world that He came to save than the Christ who died to save the world.
13. We cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons at the same time (1 Corinthians 10:21).
14. All the Bible that one really has is what he lives.
15. Give God the first fruits of your day.
16. Give God the first day of the week.
17. Give God the first portion of your pay.
18. Give God the first place in your heart.
19. When you undermine the book of blood, the blood-bought church, the Lord’s Supper of remembrance, or baptism, nothing remains to connect you with the cross.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to be “connected” to the cross?
2. What is the focus of the Gospels? What is the focus of Acts through Revelation?
3. Discuss the importance of the local church.
4. How is baptism connected to the cross?
5. How is the Lord's Supper connected to the cross?