

The Word of the Cross (Part 2)

The Spirit of Anti-Christ Is Anti-Cross

Ways We May Refuse/Resist the Word of the Cross: (Lk 9:24)

- Cling to the past
- Cling to the offenses of others
- Cling to self-righteousness
- Cling to fantasies
- Cling to self-justification (excuse for sameness)

Embracing the Cross-ified Life - Lk 9:18-24; Matt 16:13:26

Man's Interests

Self-referential/determining
Arguing with the Word
Self-preservation

God's Interests

God-referential/determination
Submitted to the Word
Self-expenditure
(they are antagonistic/hostile)

The Command Invitation:

- "if anyone wishes" - voluntary response to love; the crossified life cannot be imposed
- "let him deny himself" - the self formed in separation from God is never straightened out, it is "crossed" out!
- we deny, disown, renounce the cross-less self - it cannot function in the kingdom of the God/the church
- "take up his cross daily" - the cross is designed to kill!
- a daily cooperation with His operation of applying the atonement to all our experience - Ex 23:29-30; Josh 13:1; Ro 6:11
- "follow Me" - sharing My (Crucified, Risen) Life in common - Mk 1:17

The Fundamental Pattern:

- Surrender - Phil 2:8; Ro 5:19; Ga 1:4; Jo 8:29; 4:34
- ...faithful obedience

- Suffering - Jo 12:27; Heb 5:7; Matt 26:37

...lot of soul pain - Lk 9:22; 16:25; 24:25,26; Phil 1:29; 1 Pet 2:20; 3:14; 5:10; Heb 2:10

- Sacrificial - Phil 2:7-8; II Cor 8:9

...voluntary self-giving

Nothing passive or accidental about it!