

THE WAY OF THE CROSS (Part 1)
1 Corinthians 2:2

All of Christianity's Theology and Spirituality Is Rooted in the Cross of Christ

- To be godly is to be shaped by cross-centered truth
 - ...to participate in the Crucified, Risen Savior - 1 Jo 2:6
 - ...His way is the way of cross-centered faith, hope, and love

THE WAY OF CROSS-CENTERED FAITH

- Faith Is a Death Experience (a life out of death experience)
 - ...a death to all other voices, powers, "gods"
- Jesus' Faith Was His Gift to God and to Us - Ro 3:22,26; Ga 2:16,20; 3:22
 - ...the promise was secured by the "faith of the Son of God"
 - ...restores us rightly to God so we may now trust and obey
 - ...opens the door to God's transformative power through the cross
- A Voluntary Obedience - Ro 1:5; 16:26; Phil 2:8
 - ...belief precedes behavior, but is rarely recognized without behavior - Ro 5:18-19; Ga 1:4; Ja 2:14ff
 - ...our "no" to what is "not God", our "yes" to what is God = a life out of death experience!
- Results in a Return to Reality - Jo 10:10
 - ...we were made for receptivity and for responsivity
 - ...life as God intended it to be

THE WAY OF CROSS-CENTERED LOVE

- Love Is a Death Experience (a life out of death experience)
 - ...a death to self centeredness - Ro 15:3
- Jesus' Love was a Demonstration of Trinitarian Love - Ro 5:8; Ga 2:20
 - ...the cross was a form/mode of His love
 - ...the way of faith in its proper object - 1 Cor 13:2; Ja 2:14; 1 Jo 3:14ff
- A Voluntary Self Giving - Phil 2:6-7 ("poured out" life)
 - ...what our freedom in Christ is for - Ga 5:6,13,14
 - ...cross-ified love is not a self-pleasing love - Ro 15:3; 14:13

- Results in a Replacement

...self-for-self been replaced by self-for-others

...a moral transformation ..."under the law of Christ" - 1 Cor 9:21

...the way of "not I, but you" - Phil 2:21; Ga 2:20; II Cor 6:11

THE WAY OF CROSS-CENTERED HOPE

- Hope Is a Death Experience (a life out of death experience)

...the cross challenges every human idea of wisdom, power, success

- Jesus' Hope was the Death of Such Worldly Definitions of Hope

...He'd rather die than live like that!

- A Voluntary Weakness - II Cor 6:4-10; 8:9

...an act of confident expectation that God can do what we cannot - Matt 19:26

...a fundamental characteristic of Paul's ministry - II Cor 12:10; 4:12

- Results in a Reversal - Phil 2:9-11

...God gets final word; love always wins - Ga 2:20

...an assured future where every wrong is righted