

The Cross of Jesus Christ is the way of our lives. It centers us in His ways, His ways in us by virtue of our born-againness. Abide in Him, the Crucified, Risen Savior, abandon to Him and the transformative power of the cross will render us "fit" for the kingdom of God... "Cross-fit", if you will! It is in being "Cross-fit" that we become fully functional human beings. We experience an optimized fitness for life as God intended it to be. By the way of the cross alone we grow up, we grow strong... we become healthy, mature people.

We saw last month that the way of the cross is the way of faith, of hope, and of love. All are life out of death experiences. A death to other voices, to human measurements and standards, to self centeredness opens the door to life by His truth, His strength, and His life for others. Let's consider two final aspects of the crossified life:

First, the way of the cross is the way of community. Salvation must be personal, but it is never private. We are born into a community of shared life, a colony of heaven on earth. A body made of many parts, a family of multiple members, a city with diverse citizens. Each graced with the capacity to share in common the Uncommon Life of Christ. Ours is a communal spirituality. The cross is irreducibly relational; it is a shared way... with Christ and others believing in Him. The challenge of the cross, then, is not just to be in fellowship with Christ, but also with one another. Our witness, our apologetics, our evangelism is tied up in this - "By this will all men know that you are my disciples (crossified ones), if you have love for one another." (Jo 13:35)

Secondly, the way of the cross is the way of intercession. It is the way of identifying with God's interests in others. That makes the cross a missionary and a sacramental spirituality (Phil 2:17). To be "cross-fit" is to be not about our interests in God, but to be about His interest in others. That makes the way of the cross the way of voluntary humility (Phil 2:8). It is the way of going low, not high. The way of the cross is the way of voluntary identification (Phil 2:7). Let's call it the way of compassion, a willingness to identify and move in the direction of need... toward others, not away from them. It is the way of voluntary sacrifice (Ga 2:20). The way of paying the price so others may go free. The way of the cross is the way of exaltation (Phil 2:9-11). Jesus didn't rise from the dead - He was raised! By the power of Another, we are raised to see things from God's perspective, raised by His power which overcomes every obstacle to life as God intended.

This is the Way... the Way of Christ and His cross!



- **Tax-deductible contributions** - may be made to *One In Christ, Inc.* by mailing your gifts to the address above
- **Messages and sermons by Steve** - can be listened to or downloaded at www.stevepettitmessages.com
- **Conferences and events led by Steve** - can be arranged by calling Steve at 386-418-0913
- **To receive this newsletter electronically** - email your request to OICnewsletter@gmail.com

Praise Reports & Prayer Requests



Please inform us of any changes to your address



👏 GREETINGS 👏

Some of you have been asking about our Florida Retreat dates already - February 12 - 14, 2016 will be our weekend together here. Hope to see many of you who have attended before and lots of you who've never been able to join us before! (More details in the next newsletter.)

This would be a good time to remind you to lock in a 2016 or 2017 date. Some dates are already filled, but there are a few openings in 2016 left. (By the way, it looks like we will have a November 2015 weekend available if anyone wants to squeeze a meeting in before year's end.)

I love the small group weekend events! To expound and expand upon the awareness of "Christ in you, the hope of glory!" with the opportunity for dialogue and feedback is my favorite kind of "event". To see the lights come on regarding "Christ our Life," for realization to dawn that I am actually a "new creation in Christ", to believe and come to know that I am no longer "under law" but grace rules... these are some of life's greatest joys!

Because of your gifts, your encouragement and support, we do not ask for fees, honorariums, up front costs, etc - we simply go where we are invited and trust God (often through many of you), to be our supply. Without reference to size or ability to "pay", we are free to go and share the "truth of the gospel" with no strings attached. Thank you - we thank each and every one of you!

✍️ CALENDAR ✍️

SEPTEMBER	
2	HAPPY 60th BIRTHDAY STEVE!!
6,13,20	CCF
8	Alachua Study
22	Ocala Study
25 - OCT 2	Durango, CO
OCTOBER	
8-11	Binghamton, NY
23-24	Sebring, FL

♥️ PRAISE and PRAYER ✝️

- ♥️ Opportunities to share
- ♥️ Partners in ministry
- ✝️ Opportunities to share
- ✝️ Partners in ministry

NONPROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
ALACHUA, FL
PERMIT NO.11

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

One In Christ, Inc.
13820 NW 172nd Avenue
Alachua, FL 32615