



Crucified with Christ

Galatians 2:20 declares that we have been “crucified with Christ,” and that truth begins with the staggering reality that Jesus was crucified on our behalf. From the beginning, the Bible reveals that this was God’s plan of redemption. Isaiah foretold the suffering Messiah who would be “pierced through for our transgressions” (Isaiah 53:5), and Jesus Himself affirmed that the Son of Man “must suffer many things” (Mark 8:31). Peter later preached that Jesus was “delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God” (Acts 2:23). Yet the Bible also makes clear that humanity not just the Roman soldiers or the religious leaders sent Jesus to His death. Humanity’s sin, rebellion, and estrangement from God placed Jesus on the cross. And astonishingly, Jesus embraced this willingly, “No one has taken [My life] away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative” (John 10:18). Jesus endured the crucifixion because He loved humanity and desired that none should perish (John 3:16). His sacrifice was not forced; it was chosen, an act of divine love aimed at reconciling us back to God.

Yet while some of us acknowledge that our sin put Jesus to death, many of us struggle to embrace the second half of Galatians 2:20, *dying to ourselves so that Christ may live through us*. We accept that Jesus died for us, but we often resist allowing our old nature, our sin patterns, self-reliance, and self-rule, worldly perspectives to be crucified with Him. Paul teaches that “our old self was crucified with Him” (Romans 6:6), meaning that the person we were apart from Christ has already been put to death. But many of us still cling to old habits, old identities, and old ways of striving. The Holy Spirit desires to produce new life within us, yet we often continue living as though the Cross only accomplished forgiveness and not transformation. The invitation of Galatians 2:20 is not merely to believe that Jesus died for us, but to live as though we have died with Him so that His resurrection life becomes our daily reality.

This shift from self-effort to Holy Spirit-empowered living requires intentional surrender. The Bible repeatedly calls us to stop relying on our own strength and instead yield to the Holy Spirit. God promised through Ezekiel, “I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes” (Ezekiel 36:27), showing that obedience flows from divine empowerment and not human striving. Paul echoes this when he says, “Walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh” (Galatians 5:16). Practically, this means cultivating a posture of dependence, beginning each day by inviting the Holy Spirit to guide our thoughts, decisions, and desires, responding to conviction quickly, and allowing God’s Word to shape our inner life. It also means embracing weakness rather than resisting it, because God’s power is made perfect in our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9). The more we release control, the more the Holy Spirit produces what we cannot manufacture: love, joy, peace, and the fullness of Christ’s character.

Galatians 2:20 reminds us that salvation is not works-based. Jesus accomplished everything necessary for our redemption on the Cross. “It is finished” was not a poetic phrase; it was a declaration that the work of salvation was complete. Paul reinforces this truth by saying, “By grace you have been saved through faith... not as a result of works” (Ephesians 2:8-9). Our role now is not to earn God’s favor but to trust the One who sacrificially loved us. Daily obedience flows from gratitude and not obligation, from relationship and not performance. As Christ lives through us, our decisions, actions, and attitudes become expressions of faith, evidence that we belong to the One who gave Himself for us. *We are not striving to be accepted; we are living from acceptance.* And as we trust Jesus moment by moment, His life becomes visible in ours, fulfilling the beautiful truth, “It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.”

1. How does Isaiah’s prophecy that the Messiah would be “pierced through for our transgressions” (Isaiah 53:5) shape your understanding of Jesus’ willingness to suffer for you personally?

2. Jesus said, “No one has taken [My life] away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative” (John 10:18). What does His voluntary sacrifice reveal about the depth of His love for you?

3. Acts 2:23 says Jesus was delivered over “by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God.” How does knowing the Cross was God’s plan from the beginning affect your trust in His sovereignty?

4. Romans 6:6 teaches that “our old self was crucified with Him.” What parts of your old life do you still struggle to believe are truly dead?

5. Galatians 2:20 says, “It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.” What would your daily life look like if this truth shaped every decision you made?

6. Ezekiel 36:27 says God will put His Spirit within you and “cause you to walk in My statutes.” In what areas do you still rely on your own strength instead of the Holy Spirit’s power?

7. Galatians 5:16 commands believers to “walk by the Spirit.” What practical habits help you stay sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s leading throughout the day?

8. 2 Corinthians 12:9 says God’s power is perfected in weakness. What weaknesses might God be inviting you to embrace rather than hide or resist?

9. Romans 12:2 calls us to “be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” What thoughts or beliefs need renewal so that Christ can live more fully through you?

10. Ephesians 2:8-9 reminds us that salvation is “not as a result of works.” In what ways do you still feel pressure to earn God’s approval?

11. Titus 3:5 says God saved us “not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness.” How does this truth free you to serve God out of love rather than obligation?

12. Hebrews 12:2 calls Jesus the “author and perfecter of faith.” What would it look like to trust Him more fully with the areas of your life you tend to control?

We are all called to reflect deeply on Christ’s sacrifice, our call to die to self, and the Holy Spirit’s power to transform our daily lives. As you continue seeking Him, let these truths shape your trust, your choices, and your growing dependence on the One who loved you and gave Himself for you.