

The Death of Innocence (The Epic of the Cross Series – Part II)

3/8/2009

1. Protestant church buildings tend to contain empty crosses, and the members within them tend to wear empty crosses. Why do we do that, and how might we benefit from thinking more often about Christ on the cross??

2. Pastor Steve described a typical Christian mindset as:
God is Holy; we are not. Thus, God wants nothing to do with us, because we are not worthy. Jesus' blood was a sacrifice for our sins. If we accept that gift of grace, then we are reconciled with God. What did he say was the problem with this thinking?

3. Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-16.

a) What motivates Christ?

b) What does it mean that Christ's love "controls" or "compels" us?

c) Verse 16 seems like a riddle. What is Paul saying here?

4. Continue reading 2 Cor. 5:17-21.

a) What is the difference between being cleansed of our sins and being a new creation?

b) Pastor Steve talked about Jesus dying on our behalf, not in our place. How are these different from each other?

c) What can we do as a result of becoming new creations that we could not do before?

5. Our sinful natures cause us to feel both guilt and shame. How are these two emotions different?

6. As described by Pastor Steve, we confess our guilt, but underneath is shame. How is that a problem?

7. Toward the end of the sermon, Pastor Steve challenged us to let the person that we now are crucify the person that we once were. What is he saying we should do?

8. Close with Colossians 1:19-23. Reflect on the open invitation for reconciliation with God.