

THE OFFENSE OF THE CROSS

Galatians 5:11

Why is the **cross** of Jesus Christ an offense?

I. It is **REPULSIVE**

No one would have thought of a cross for jewelry!

A cross speaks of violence, torture, humiliation, death
It symbolizes a bloody religion that is not “nice”
It speaks of a God Who is furious!

II. It is **HUMBLING**

Jesus’ teaching either humbled or offended:

- Sermon on the Mount
- Jewish leaders
- Herod Antipas
- Judas
- Felix
- Festus

It condemns you and says you are a sinner who needs a perfect Substitute to take your place. It says there is *nothing* you can do to save yourself

It speaks of your need of

- Atonement (Romans 3:23-25): satisfy wrath
- Redemption ((Revelation 5:9): purchase with blood
- Forgiveness (Ephesians 1:7): God angry at us
- Justification (Romans 3:23-24, 26): guilty
- Reconciliation (Romans 5:9-10; 8:14-15): enemies

You contribute *nothing* except the sin that needs to be taken away

III. It is **INTOLERANT**

There is no other way to be right with God (Acts 4:12)
But what about the millions who have never heard of Jesus? God surely owes them another way!

God will surely be perfectly just in that Day, but that is little comfort to the one apart from Christ (Romans 2:12-16)

The cross is purely from mercy, by grace, utterly undeserved.

Gal 5:11 → 6:12-13

But for the one who has tasted the grace of God at the cross: Gal 6:14!

What is the cross of Christ to you, honestly?

An offense? Or the most precious treasure?

If you claim it a treasure, do you ever speak of it? It is not easy, but it IS the power of God to salvation (I Corinth 2:1-5 and Romans 1:16-17)

Tips on speaking about the cross to our generation:

1. Focus your discussion on the person and work of Jesus Christ. He came to show us how to live, but also that our hearts stubbornly resist that.
2. The heart of Christianity is His unique substitutionary sacrifice where on the cross He paid the penalty that our sins deserve. He was perfect and alone could pay that debt.
3. If there was *any* other way for God to save us, then He tortured His Son on the cross needlessly, and is terribly cruel, not loving. So the cross was the *only* way for life.
4. The cross then becomes the greatest manifestation of love in all of human history: God sacrificing His willing Son to rescue **you** from the judgment you deserve, and give you life with Him through eternity in His Heaven.