

The Offense of the Cross

Adapted from:

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The Offense of the Cross

- 18. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**
- 19. For it is written:**
 **"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
 the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."**
- 20. Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? (1 Cor. 1:18-20)**

The Offense of the Cross

- 21. For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.**
- 22. Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom,**
- 23. but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,**

(1 Cor. 1:21-23)

The Cross is Grisly and Offensive

- 1. Without question, the suffering of Christ, leading up to and including the crucifixion was terrible...
- a. The beatings, which must have been excruciatingly painful. (Matthew 26:67, Matthew 27:26-31)
- b. Nailed to the cross, which Jesus was willing to bear without drugs (Matthew 27:33-35)
- c. A shameful way to die, mocked by some, crucified with thieves (Matthew 27:36-44)

The Offense

- **“but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles.”**

(1st Corinthians 1:23)

“As it is written: Look! I am putting a stone in Zion to stumble over, and a rock to trip over, yet the one who believes on Him will not be ashamed.”

(Romans 9:33)

The Offense

- **“Now brothers, if I still preach circumcision, why am I still persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished.” (Galatians 5:11)**

The Offense

- **The cross is offensive.**
- **It speaks at the “pride” of man. Man wants to justify themselves.**
- **But the cross, leaves no room for self-justification.**

The Offense of the Cross

- People call Christians “intolerant”.
- As “perfect God” & “perfect Man”, Jesus was the only one who could judge fairly.
- Jesus declared everyone
“guilty of sin”.
- Jesus was “intolerant” of sin.
- Jesus is the “ONLY” JUST JUDGE!!

The Offense of the Cross

- Yet, no One was more tolerant than Christ.
- The “sinless One” went one step further and carried the sin of the world upon Himself.

The Offense of the Cross

- **Man justifies themselves; but we can be justified through faith in Christ's shed blood at Calvary.**
- **Christians aren't intolerant!!**
- **Christians "were" just as guilty as everyone.**
- **Christian have just RECEIVED CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS and wish to share it with a lost world.**

The Offense

- “Those who want to make a good showing in the flesh are the ones who would compel you to be circumcised—but only to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ” (Galatians 6:12)
- “Circumcision” is a picture of “trying to do” things for God’s approval and acceptance.

The Cross Rejects Us At Our Best

- **“But as for me, I will never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...”**

(Galatians 6:14)

- **We have nothing to offer or contribute to our salvation.**
- **The cross is an assault on our pride.... we have done nothing to earn salvation.**

The Offense of the Cross of Calvary is just as powerful now as it was then...

Written across Calvary is sacrifice. Written across this age is pleasure.

On Christ's lips are: "I must die".

On people's lips are: "I must enjoy".

**Make everything interesting, pleasant, easy.
Then is the offense of the cross ceased - and
with it the power of the gospel.**

(George H. Morrison)

The Cross Reasons That We Are Vile & Helpless Sinners

- **“For God was... making peace through the blood of His cross... And you were once alienated and hostile in mind because of your evil actions. But now He has reconciled you by His physical body through His death...”**

(Colossians 1:19-22)

- **Colossians 1:19-22** “For God was... making peace through the blood of His cross... And you were once alienated and hostile in mind because of your evil actions. But now He has reconciled you by His physical body through His death...”
- **Cross**: our situation was so bad it took the cross to fix it.
- **Alienated**: we were separated from God.
- **Hostile**: we were rebels against God.
- **Evil Actions**: offensive to God.

The Cross Requires That We Come to God On His Terms

- **1 Corinthians 1:17** “**For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with clever words, so that the cross of Christ will not be emptied of its effect”**
- **Baptize: not dependent on human ritual.**
- **Preach: not dependant on clever words.**

The Offense of the Cross

Summary:

- **The Cross is Grisly and Offensive.**
 - We have nothing to offer or contribute to our salvation.
 - The cross is an assault on our pride.
- **The Cross Reasons that We are Vile and Helpless Sinners.**
- **The Cross Requires that We Come to God on His Terms**