

Living the 'Crucified Life'

Most Christians have heard of *new life in Christ*, living *resurrection life*, or being a *new creation in Christ*. It's something we all want to experience, but before resurrection comes crucifixion. Living a new life in Christ begins with crucifixion – putting to death the 'old me.'

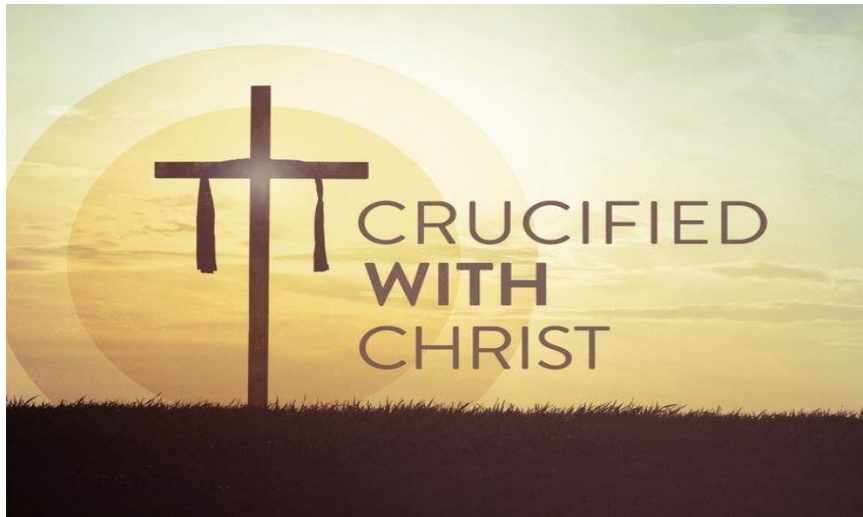
It's a fact: You were crucified

When did it happen?

The 'old person' is dead and buried (I'm the 'new me'!)

Spiritual 'grave-robbers': The psychology of Satan

Reckon yourself dead to sin: Keep burying the 'old man'!



Digging Deeper

1. Read Galatians 2.20. Focus on the opening phrase: *I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live...* Have you been *crucified with Christ*? We usually think that *spiritually* we were crucified with Christ – His death paid the price for my sin. While this is true, have you ever thought of yourself as actually being *crucified*? That unsaved person you used to be 'died' and was 'buried'! Again, how does it affect you to say, "I no longer live"? What beyond the spiritual fact of our salvation, does this mean to you?
2. The great struggle in our Christian lives is keeping our physical members (bodies) from being instruments of sin. Read Romans 6.1-11. Paul raises the issue in v1, and answers it in v2. What is his reason why Christians should not continue in sin? When did the believer 'die with Christ' (vv. 3-6a)? What was the expected result of this 'death' (vv. 6b-7)?
3. Now let's try a little unpleasant 'role playing.' Imagine you are Satan, and your objective is to destroy Christians and keep them from experiencing victory over sin. You want them enslaved to sin in their Christian lives. *What would you do? What must you keep Christians from knowing about their lives? What can you tell them to keep them living in sin and suffering its results?*
4. In contrast to Satan's lies, what does Romans 6.11 tell us to do? To 'reckon' something means to 'consider it to be so.' It doesn't mean to 'pretend' something that isn't true, but to *believe what God says has happened to us* when we were saved. What truths about us as Christians are hard for us believe?
5. Experiencing victory over sin isn't easy, but *it is possible* as we *reckon ourselves to be dead to sin*. A big part of this is a result of 'right thinking' (see Romans 12.2). Read Ephesians 4.22-24 and Romans 8.13. As we recognize the person we used to be is 'dead and buried,' how will it affect our actions (the things our 'old self' used to do)?