



# CELL GUIDE 2016

Theme	Rebuilding the Family Wall
Topic	The Purpose of the Cross
Speaker	Ps David Ravenhill
Date	27 <sup>th</sup> and 28 <sup>th</sup> August 2016

## Message Summary

### Spiritual Objective: Knowing Jesus as LORD and Saviour

The Cross of Christ is the centrepiece and foundation of our Christian beliefs. Paul himself confessed that he 'resolved to know nothing except Jesus Christ and him crucified' (1 Cor 2:2). And so one of the questions we might ask ourselves about Jesus Christ and Him crucified is, 'what was He crucified for?'

Some might say that Christ was crucified to take away our sins so that we might have eternal life. Yet such an answer would only be partly true. The Cross is God's medicine for man's sins and is therefore meant to restore us to God's original purpose for us. The speaker this week reminds us of God's original purpose for man, leading to the full reason why Christ died on the Cross, and challenges us to live our lives in response to all that Christ has done for us.

### The Purpose of the Cross

#### 1. God's purpose for man – From Him, Through Him, FOR Him

In discerning God's purpose for us, we need to be careful that we do not allow the world to distort the original idea that God had. Just as in Matthew 19 when Jesus was asked about divorce, man may at times believe that God approves of a certain action (in this case, divorce was allowed by Moses), when Jesus clearly shows that just because God allowed it does not mean that He approved of it. The measure of God's purpose is not dependent upon man's convenience, but God's intention.

So if we take a look at Genesis 2:15 and return to the original purpose and relationship between God and man, we see that God took Adam, placed him in a specific location (Garden of Eden), and told him what he was supposed to do there (cultivate it). God is the one who makes the plans, and man's role is to submit to God's plans.

This view is supported in multiple scripture references, where the bible is clear that all things were created not only through Him, but **for** Him (Col 1:16, Heb 2:10, Rom 11:36).

#### 2. The purpose of the Cross – So that He might be LORD

However, we all know that starting from Adam and Eve, all have gone astray and turned away from God to their own ways (Isa 53:6), and so there is a need to restore us to God.

And so the narrative that Christ died to save us from sin is only half a narrative, for it only tells us what Christ has saved us **from**, but not what He saves us **for**. Christ saved us so that the original Will and Purpose of God for Man may be achieved. Christ died to restore us to God.



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Romans 14:9 tells us that “Christ died and returned to life **so that He might be the Lord** of both the dead and the living.” Similarly, Titus 2:14 reminds us that Jesus “gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and **to purify for Himself a people that are His very own**”.

And so the whole message is clear, Christ died on the cross not to purchase our sins, but to purchase us for God. For whatever the blood cleanses, the blood also claims, and with His blood, He ‘purchased for God persons from every tribe, language, people and nation’ (Rev 5:9).

The Cross is not centered around us being free from sin. It is centered around God getting His people back to serve Him.

### **3. Our Response to the Cross – A living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God**

So, then, what is our response now that we know that the Cross is about more than just being free from sin? While we previously may have approached the Cross of Christ with the idea that we just need to believe that Jesus is our Saviour, we now need to also understand that to receive the Cross of Christ is to accept Jesus as Lord as well.

Christ died so that those who live “should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them.” (2 Cor 5:15). That we should “offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.” (Rom 12:1)

This is why the bible calls us to die to ourselves. For the root of sin is the selfish desire to live our lives our own way, away from God. And we must die to this selfish desire within us so that we can offer up our lives as living sacrifices to God.

The bible warns us as well that there will be false teachers who ignore this part of the narrative of the Cross which compels us to submit to Christ as Lord.

2 Peter 2:1 warns us against false prophets and false teachers within the people of God who will deny the Lordship and Sovereignty of God.

Jude 1:4 warns us of ungodly people who pervert the grace of God into a license for immorality and deny Christ as our only Sovereign Lord.

James 4:16 warns us that making plans of our own without consulting God is both arrogant, evil and sinful.

Have we embraced only half the message of the cross, while denying God His due?

Do we accept Christ as Saviour, but deny Him as Sovereign Lord?

Do we give God only our sins, but withhold from Him full access to our lives?

Now that we know the full message of the Cross, will we now give Him not just our sins, but all our plans, our hopes, our dreams, our lives?



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## Questions

1) What is the purpose of the Cross and why did Jesus go to the Cross?

(Fill In Answer Here)

2) Many of us go to Jesus easily as our Saviour but not as Master. Why is it difficult for us to surrender to Him fully as Saviour and Master?

(Fill In Answer Here)

3) What is the one area in which God has been tugging at you to submit to Him fully? What would you need to let go in order to do so and how can the cell group pray for and journey with you?

(Fill In Answer Here)