

Homegroup Notes for Week Beginning 3/2/2025.

Introduction:

At the beginning of 2025, we are examining a verse that will chime throughout the year and to which we will return. Galatians 2.20, variously stated as:

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (NIV)

²⁰ My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (NLT)

Indeed, I have been crucified with Christ. My ego is no longer central. It is no longer important that I appear righteous before you or have your good opinion, and I am no longer driven to impress God. Christ lives in me. The life you see me living is not "mine," but it is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I am not going to go back on that. (MSG)

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (ESV)

Christian faith is faith *in Christ* and is shaped by the crucifixion and resurrection. Once and for all and uniquely, Christ died and was raised as the means of the salvation of the world. We are included in this renewal as we live our lives through our identifying with Christ. Consequently, the cross and resurrection also form the pattern of our discipleship, dying to self in order to live for Christ, counting ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ.

This series looks both at the work of Christ and what it means to live 'in Christ' or to step into the life that is ours as Christ lives in us.

There is a genuine challenge here as to how we approach life, faith and church. We under-realise who we are if we fail to grasp the ending of one way of life and the gift of another accessed exclusively in Christ. The church is called to live differently because it is the community of those who are dead and alive in Him living towards a new creation.

We are not that which we were; we are saved from death and called into life; we are being transformed into the glorious image of God in Christ as we continue to die and find new life in Him (2 Corinthians 3.18)

AS TS Eliot wrote, *"What we call the beginning is often the end
And to make an end is to make a beginning.
The end is where we start from..."*

Week Beginning February 3rd:



Read Psalm 40.1-3

- Here is a description of the process of change that comes by God's grace from a place of loss and trouble to a place of security and worship to a life of mission.
- Read the words aloud several times. You might like to discuss where you feel you are in these verses.
- How is Jesus the answer to this prayer?
- Spend some time praying.



The last week of our series, 'Dead and Alive' on Galatians 2.20 focuses on the life of discipleship that emerges from our new identity in Christ. The verse ends,

*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. **The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.***

- The word 'in' is repeated in this verse.
 - We live *in* Christ and Christ lives *in* us. What do these two ideas suggest about how we live as followers of Jesus?
 - Does everybody live by faith in somebody or something?
 - What does it mean for you to live by faith **in the Son of God**? How do we find the strength to do this?
 - We live by faith in the Son of God who loved us and gave himself for us. Read John 3.16. How does this verse unpack these words? What does that mean to you and your life?
 - You might like to read Psalm 32.7 and Zephaniah 3.17. How do these words help us to reflect on the love and self-giving of God in Christ?

Galatians 2.20 speaks of a life together as church that is created because of the death and resurrection of Jesus. That life is a commission to be light; to be true images of God in the world and it happens through an ongoing process of transformation. Ephesians 4 takes the idea of dying and being raised and expresses it in a continuing change of attire.

²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

- How do we put off the old life and put on the new?
- What role does the Holy Spirit have? Read Romans 12.2 and Galatians 5.22-23
- How can we support each other or stimulate each other in this?



- What do you need to put off, what do you need to put on, where do you need the help of God's Spirit to be 'made new in the attitude of your minds'?