

“Boasting in the Cross”

Galatians 6:14

There are 3 crucifixions referenced in this verse:

- 1) The crucifixion of Jesus (“the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ”)
- 2) The crucifixion of the world to Paul (and by inference to all believers)
- 3) The crucifixion of Paul (and all believers) to the world

THE CROSS OF JESUS CHRIST

1. Crucifixion was a long and slow process.

- Not instantaneous. Took hours. Sometimes days.

2. Crucifixion was a process of pain and torture.

- It was intended to inflict physical pain on the victim.
- To ‘speed’ the process, Roman soldiers would sometimes break the legs of the crucified. John 19:31-32

3. Crucifixion was an act of humiliation.

- Death by crucifixion was for the most detested criminals.

→ In this Paul boasted—exclusively!

→ The true gospel fundamentally changes one’s relationship with the world.

The world is in opposition to the Christ follower... and the Christ follower lives in opposition to the world.

THE WORLD CRUCIFIED TO THE CHRIST FOLLOWER

→ I regard the world as condemned.

1. To regard the world as condemned in my thinking.

- John 1:5: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

2. To regard the world as condemned in my heart

- The world is in love with things with which I am not in love.
- 1 John 2:15-17: Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

3. To regard the world as condemned in my actions.

- My lifestyle ‘condemns’ the world. 1 Corinthians 15:12-19

→ Does the world think you’re crazy for how you live? Do non-Christians pity you for being so deceived?

THE CHRIST FOLLOWER CRUCIFIED TO THE WORLD

→ The world regards me as condemned.

- The world regards the Christ follower as a fool.
- Acts 5:41: Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.

What is this object in which the apostle says he will glory? Very wonderful indeed! It is that Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Mary, was subjected to a long life of sorrow, reproach, and contempt; that towards the close of it, he was arrested, accused, condemned as a malefactor; and after innumerable and unspeakable indignities, was at last nailed to a cross, an engine of torture of the most cruel and painful kind, and so shameful, that it was a manner of punishment appropriated to the most detested criminals of the basest rank.
-John Witherspoon

With these words Paul testifies that he hates the world with the perfect hatred of the Holy Spirit, and that the world, in turn, hates him with the perfect hatred of the spirit of evil. It is as though he were saying: “It is impossible to conclude any peace between me and the world. Then what should I do? Shall I surrender and teach what the world wants me to teach? No. But with an undaunted spirit I shall attack it even more boldly, disdain and crucifying it as completely as it disdains and crucifies me.”
-Martin Luther, Commentary on Galatians 6:14