

**God's love has two crosses**



# LIVING WATER RESOURCES

God's love has two crosses

Robert C May

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[cometotheriver@optusnet.com.au](mailto:cometotheriver@optusnet.com.au)

## **God's plan for us to have His life and love has two crosses**

In the beginning when God created all things He made men and women flesh and blood, and then breathed the life of His Holy Spirit into them, so that they were like God in nature.

As God's children they had the life of God in them. As His children they were to be holy as God is holy. They would have the love of God. They would have the light of God, and they would have the power of God to please their heavenly Father.

But the first man Adam sinned by disobeying God, and God's Spirit left him, and he became just sinful flesh. (Gen 6:3) Instead of being holy they were disobedient, unfaithful, unforgiving,

unloving, angry, unkind and selfish. They worshipped idols and did not worship God. They were unholy and not fit for heaven. They lived for themselves and no longer lived for God their Father. They worshipped the creation rather than the Creator. Rom 1:25-32 Rom 5:17-18

Since then everyone born after Adam and Eve are born to be like sinful Adam; without God's Spirit, without God's light, without God's life. They are separated from God and now live in the darkness.

Rom 8:8 Rom 9:8 Eph 2:3

So all men and women at birth are lost to the devil's power; the same devil that tempted Adam. All men and women naturally listen to the devils lies. Now sinful man is without hope in the darkness

of a cruel world ruled by Satan.

1 John 5:19 Eph 2:1-3, 12

But God still loves all people because He made them in the beginning to be like Him. God wants all people to be made alive again with Him as His children. He wants all of us to follow His plan for life and peace through His beloved Son Jesus Christ, who came to die on a cross for our sin so we can live with Him.

God's plan is for us to have a new life with Him, and this plan has two crosses.

But first we must know God is Love. And God shows us His love in John 3:16-17 *“For God loved the world (those who live in the darkness) so much He gave us His only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the*

*world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”* But believing in the Son is much more than just agreeing with Him.

For John 3:36 says: *those who believe in Him have life, but those who don't obey Him do not have life and the wrath of God is on them.* John 17:3 also shows us eternal life is about a relationship with the Father and the Son, now, here on earth.

1 John 1:3 John 15:4 NLT John 15:9-11

### **THIS IS THE WORK OF THE FIRST CROSS**

But the first cross is not the end of God's amazing plan. If we only have the first cross, we only have a pretend ticket to heaven, and there is no bus coming for us.

We must have an obedient relationship with Jesus Christ who is the savior of the world. The relationship Jesus makes possible requires a new nature; our old sinful nature from Adam cannot be with God. So the Lord Jesus tells us we must be born again

by God so we can be with God and receive  
God's Spirit nature. 2 Peter 1:3-4

*"God is spirit, and those who worship Him  
must worship in spirit and truth."* John 4:24

So the Lord says unless we are born again  
in our spirit we cannot see God. He says  
unless we are born of water and the Spirit,  
we cannot enter the kingdom of God. Since  
that which is born of the flesh of man is just  
man and that which is born of God's Spirit  
is spirit. (John 3:3, 5-6) This new nature from  
God is God's likeness made alive in the  
believer by the Spirit of God.

Col 2:9-10, 13, 3:3-4, 9-10

But to receive the new nature we must die  
to our old nature in the flesh since the flesh  
life cannot please God. (Rom 8:8) We cannot  
have two natures. Those who live according  
to the flesh nature cannot ever be good  
enough to live with God. All the religious  
practice in the world according to the flesh

cannot please God. (Rom 8:6-7) Praying all day will not help the flesh enter heaven's door. To please God we must put off the flesh life. (Rom 8:13) We must die to the flesh life in order to be born again by God, and grow up into the life of Jesus Christ.

Rom 6:3-5

Therefore God's Love is shown to us in how He works for our highest good at His great cost so we can be His holy children. He did this by sending His Son to die for our sins so we can turn from sin and receive His life.

The highest good God desires for all mankind, is His image and likeness to be reborn in us, which is made possible by the death of His Son so we become children of God who live for Him. This new life is the life of His only Son made alive in us who believe and obey Him.

When we turn from self rule to die to the flesh life, then the Holy Spirit gives us the life of God in Jesus Christ so we live for Him.

When we receive this new life God tells us in Romans 8:29 that He wants those who obey Jesus to be conformed to the image of His Son. This is Christ in us, He is our new life. God also tells us in Colossians 3:10 that those who obey Jesus put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created them. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says: *“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things have passed away, behold, new things have come.”*

Eph 4:15 Col 3:3

Therefore God’s love working for our highest good is not to just save us from sin, but that we would be like Jesus Christ, learning from Him as His disciples who imitate His life by the enabling of the Holy

Spirit so that we can walk with Him. So salvation is about a life lived with God today and reward later. And since God loves everyone, He wants everyone to have His life.

So the Lord Jesus said: *“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit; teaching them to obey all I have commanded you.”* In this way the Lord Jesus shows us the way to His kingdom and His love and peace, is by making disciples who will have a relationship with Him through obedience and become like Him. So His disciples are to work for the highest good for all people. Husbands, wives, children, neighbors, strangers and even our enemy, so that all can have the life of Christ.

To do this the disciple must follow the Lord Jesus commands and His way of living for

God, and then he will remain in His love. Because of God's love for us the Lord Jesus took up His cross to die for us so we can have His life; and now because of our love for the Lord, the disciple must take up his cross. The Lord has said: *"If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me."*

Matt 6:24

As the Lord Jesus took up His cross for us, and then sat down with the Father on His throne; He tells us to take up our cross, so we can sit down with Him on His throne.

Revelation 3:21

## **THIS IS THE WORK OF THE SECOND CROSS**

Therefore God's love has two crosses. Our cross is only the shadow of His cross. These two crosses become one cross, one life under God's grace. One Love. One Spirit. One body. One purpose for the glory of God.

Therefore our cross is our key to heaven; no key, no heaven. No Christ, no Life. No life no light.

If we don't take up our cross, many will not know about Jesus and have no key to heaven. So we must show God's love in all we say and do as we declare God's plan for all people to live with Him.

The important question is; have you taken up your cross to abide in His love, that one day you may reign with Him? If you have, you will abide in His love and He will abide in you. If you are in Christ, you are commanded to Go and make disciples, teaching them to obey all Jesus has commanded us.

If you have believed that Jesus died for your sins so you can have eternal life, but you haven't died to the world by denying yourself, you have not understood God's plan. You haven't taken up your cross.

If you haven't been discipled to know what the Lord Jesus requires of His disciples, you probably haven't been told you have been given His life and His mission. So you may not have realised you are to follow His example and take up your cross as you follow Him to walk as He walked.

1 John 2:6-7

And to walk as He walked is to walk in Him. Col 2:6 Col 1:10 1John 3:24 Phil 2:5-11

If you haven't begun to obey Jesus Christ by putting on His life, you haven't begun to live. If you haven't started to make disciples by witness to God's plan for life and peace for all mankind, you live as if you only have one cross, and you sleep in your faith as a babe in Christ.

If you only have one cross, you must now die to self and take up your cross so you can live with God as a true disciple of Jesus. If you sleep in your faith you must

repent by turning from your own plan and be renewed in your thinking by God's Spirit with God's plan, otherwise you only have one cross and a pretend ticket to heaven where there is no bus coming for you.

The Lord Jesus has said: *'Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits. "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'* Matt 7:19-23

So awaken the sleeper, for today is the day of salvation.

If you want to know more about God's love and two cross, talk to someone who knows about God's plan for life and peace, so they can show you how to walk with God.

Take up your cross and remain in His Love.

May the God who gives life to all who obey Jesus through His plan of two crosses bless you.

Amen

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**Compiled by  
Robert C May**

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[cometotheriver@optusnet.com.au](mailto:cometotheriver@optusnet.com.au)