

A sunset scene with a bright sun low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over a field. In the background, there are silhouettes of trees and power lines. The text is overlaid in a bold, yellow, outlined font.

**God's love has
Three Objectives
Justification
Transformation
Evangelisation**

God's love has three objectives

The first thing the Father willed was for Jesus to die on a cross in order to be our justification so we can be made righteous. The second purpose that God achieved in Christ was to give us a new life, this life was one that is joined to Christ, according to His own image and likeness. *'But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.'* 2 Cor 3:18

The third thing the Fathers love sought to accomplish was to see those who are in Christ to go and do as Christ has done when the Father sent Him into the world. God calls people to faith in Jesus Christ. We can only come with no preconceived ideas, no suggestions, we accept His terms as absolute. God's call has three objectives.

The majority of people in the church who claim salvation in Christ only look to the first work of the cross, our justification.

This may be because the second work depends on the believer accepting they also need to share in the likeness of His death.

Rom 6:5, 10-11

Accepting His death as our death requires our separation from the world of human aspirations and pride to live for God.

This widespread lack of understanding that we need to die before we can live is the reason we cannot realise the miracle of not only being justified, but also glorified in Christ with His life to live as His servants on earth.

Jesus said; *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to*

life eternal. If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honour him."

John 12:24-26

This lack of knowledge of the death to self Jesus requires, is made evident by the inability of those who claim to be in Christ to realise the birth of His life in order to be a living testimony to the world in need of Him.

The Church is the body of Christ, each member of the Church is to live the Christ life, surely this is something the church has not made clear enough.

Could this be because we have not fully accepted our own death by consciously taking up our cross to follow Christ? *"And He was saying to them all, If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me."*

Luke 9:23

Our justification means living like Christ

The first achievement of God was our justification when we were forgiven our sins. This justification leads naturally to the second thing our Father wants to achieve; this was to give us a new life in Christ, made in His image and likeness so that at the final resurrection we will see Him and know we are like Him.

1 John 3:2

If we are unable to accept the two aspects of the work of the cross, our justification and our transformation, we will not be able to walk as Jesus walked in doing the works of God. *'Whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which He walked.'*

1 John 2:6

If we only believe in the justification we have in Christ in receiving forgiveness of sins, we cannot live the life of Christ that justification made possible and requires. We will not be

living according to the will of God. If we are called to walk as He walked; we are called to live and die in a similar manner as He lived and died for us.

Christ died for our sins (1 Cor 15:3) by taking our sins upon Himself. He also died to sin. *‘For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.’*

Rom 6:10

The purpose Jesus was looking to achieve when He died to sin was so that He would live only for the single purpose of obeying God.

In order to do this He knew dying to sin would remove any connection of sin to His life. In doing this He gave His life for us so we could be removed from the power of sin.

Therefore in His resurrection He lived only for God. His resurrection with power over sin enables us to receive a new life with the

righteousness of God, for we have also died to sin in order to live to God and with God. If we don't recognise we have died to sin we will always be talking in terms of our inability to be free from its power. The one who has died is free from the power of sin. Rom 6:7

If we have not accepted we have died to sin, we will have trouble with the work of our sanctification in being transformed into the likeness of Christ, a likeness which is already ours by the grace of God through our birth as children of God with all godliness. 2 Pet 1:3-4

Could our inability to do as He commands be because we are still too attached to the world and have not died to the world to live the Christ life? (Gal 2:20) There is no place for worldliness for those who are called to be children of God. *Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself*

up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.' Eph 5:1-2

It is important we remember the Lord Jesus intends we follow His example, and that means we do as He did, not just in washing feet, but to follow the example of His life as the Son of God. *"For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him."* John 13:15-16

Christ is our example. *'For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.'* 1 Pet 2:21

Our new life in Christ can only be lived in the knowledge we have died to sin and been reborn in the image of Christ. Our dying with Christ means we live in the power of His death to sin, as those who have being crucified with the Lord of Glory. Gal 2:20

In Christ we can realise the power of the resurrection in living for God. We were born in the likeness of Adam who gave in to the power of sin. Our second birth is in the likeness of Christ in God; who was tempted in every way as us, but did no sin in order to secure our second birth in order for us to reflect the life of our Father who is in heaven.

If we haven't understood and accepted our death with Christ in sharing His cross, we will be confused, or even ignorant about the ability to be able to live the life of Christ which is dead to sin.

Living the Christ life is the process of our continual sanctification, the more we acknowledge our death to sin, the more we deny its association with our life, the more we live the Christ life. *'If by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.'*

Rom 8:13

The more our intimacy with Christ reveals what is of the flesh, the more we will die and be able to live in the newness of the Spirit.

'Having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit.'

Rom 7:6

The more the life of Christ is manifest in us; the more we will live the life of Christ as His life fills us to the glory of God. In His death on the cross, Christ defeated the power of sin. In His resurrection He is able to give His life to those who believe in Him.

The life He gives is a life which also has the power over sin because it is bound together with the Spirit of God. *'Those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.'* (Rom 8:5) *'For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.'*

Rom 8:14

It is our duty to call all believers to go beyond the knowledge of our justification to completely embrace the reality of the new life in Christ while being led by the Spirit which is enabled with power to overcome sin. *'If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.'*

Rom 8:11

When we were living in the flesh we were under the dominion of the ruler of this world. (John 14:30; 2 Cor 4:4) The believer has been freed from the dominion of Satan to be alive in the dominion of Christ in the kingdom of God.

Acts 26:18

Now we who are in Christ have died to the world and the world to us. (Gal 6:14) We now live under the dominion of God in Christ. What we were unable to do in the flesh, weak

as it was, (Rom 8:3) we can now do in the Spirit of the resurrected Lord. Rom 8:4

In our death to sin and the world we have been made alive in obedience to God. (Rom 6:11) Our home is no longer in the world that we should follow its ways, our home is now located in heaven. Phil 3:20

When we accept we have been conformed to the likeness of His death, we can be renewed to the likeness of His life as the one who has defeated the power of sin. *'How shall we who died to sin still live in it?* Rom 6:2

Christ has died to sin and we died with Him. *'Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?* Rom 6:3

In our identification with Christ's death we also identify with His life. Being sharers of

His life, we share in the quality of His life by the indwelling Spirit of Christ. Gal 5:22-23

A failure to accept the need for our ongoing death with Christ means we cannot accept the reality of our lives in Christ to the glory of God, who has made us in the image of His Son in order to be like Him. Rom 8:29

Our identification with the death of Christ must be a real and abiding experience before we can gain the benefits of the new life He gives in the Spirit.

Our death determines our life. If we are unaware we have died to the world and sin, we will not be able to live according to the image of Christ the Father has placed in us.

The Spirit gives the Christ life

The empowering of the Spirit the risen Christ gives requires our participation in living as those who have died to sin.

We are called on to put off the old person we once were and to put on the new us in Christ. *'That, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.'*

Eph 4:22-24

It is only by obedience to the Spirit of God that we are able to resist the flesh. (Acts 5:32) It is only by the Spirit that we can live our new life in Christ.

Rom 8:13

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of our sanctification. (1 Pet 1:2) The same Spirit who is given to those who have died with Christ. *'Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of*

the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.'

Rom 6:4

The goal of being with Christ was the only reason the apostle Paul lived his life on earth, saying: *'that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.'*

Phil 3:10-11

Paul wanted the intimacy with Christ that comes more completely with being conformed to His death. Being conformed to Christ's death also means we are conformed to His life in fellowship with the Father.

Since Christ is our life as the crucified Son, living His crucified life means we will have victory over the flesh because His Spirit is the power of God working in us the will of God as we abide in Christ. Christ's death was overcome by the power of the resurrection; in

our crucified lives we share in the power of God so that we can give glory to God as those who have been raised from the dead with His power to enable us to not to go on habitually sinning.

The death we died with Christ needs to go on being offered to God as a sweet smelling sacrifice. *‘Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.’*

Rom 12:1

When we are prepared to go on offering ourselves sacrificially to God, we can be continually transformed by His power into the image of Christ. It is as a sacrifice to God that the Holy Spirit can change our minds into the mind of Christ. Therefore we must: *‘Be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is,*

that which is good and acceptable and perfect.'
Rom 12:2

The will of God through the sacrifice of Christ is that we become like Christ. (Rom 8:29) Living the Christ life can only be achieved when we keep ourselves from the world and live only for the kingdom of God. *'The world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.'*
Gal 6:14

For this reason the Lord Jesus has called us out of the world so we can live for God.
John 15:19

Attachment to the world and the flesh will prevent us from gaining the intimacy with Christ that only comes when we are willing to live His crucified life in service to God.

The full benefits of being raised with Him are only realised by those who will willingly die daily with Him. We are saved to be Christ's sacrificial servants of salvation.

There are many who want the benefits of heaven without the intimacy of the cross. There are many disappointed souls who want to be filled up to the fullness of God while they keep their feet firmly planted in the world. There are many who don't know the reality of the Spirit's power in defeating the plague of sin in their lives because of ignorance or disobedience.

There are many who expect the full blessings of heaven while we live in this fallen world. They only see their salvation as a way of enjoying their life on earth, as if they have already inherited the fullness of the promise of the kingdom of God.

They don't want a crucifying cross in conformity with Christ, they only desire a crown, but the crown is only for those who overcome this world by doing the work of God as the Disciples of Christ.

The Christ life is a life that can only be lived after our death with Christ so that we can live the resurrection life in fellowship with Christ. *'If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.'* Rom 8:10-11

This life from God is for the work of Christ

The third thing the Father has willed is that those in Christ go into the world as Christ was sent into the world, to save sinners from the power of sin and death.

Our spiritual birth in the image of Christ is made possible in order to do the work of Christ in the world. *"To open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they*

may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me." Acts 26:18

The first goal God willed was for Jesus to be our justification so we can be righteous. The second thing He achieved was to give us a new life in Christ, in His image and likeness.

This means our spiritual transformation. The third goal God willed is for those who believe in Christ to complete the work of Christ by reaching those who are lost in the world of darkness.

The work of saving the lost cannot be done without our death and rebirth. We have died with Christ to live in the image of Christ.

Our transformation into the life of Christ is so we continue the work of Christ by laying down our lives for the benefit of the world, as Jesus laid down His life for us. As Christ laid

down His life, He calls on us to follow His example.

1 John 3:16

We don't receive the life of Christ and the power of the Spirit for our comfort and enjoyment on earth. Our task is the evangelisation of the world.

We have life with Christ to finish the work of reaching the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

Matt 28:19-20

It is only as we separate from the world by dying with Christ to receive the life of Christ, and being empowered by the Spirit to live the life of Christ, that we will be motivated enough and fully prepared to lay down our lives for the salvation of man.

Is this the reason so many lack the motivation and love to die for Christ? Does self still live?

Our life with Christ also gives us the joy of knowing we are loved by the Father as Christ Himself is loved. The intimacy we have with the Lord by being joined with His life means our abiding in Him ensures our service to Him will prove to be fruitful.

"My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love."

John 15:8-10

We have His death, His life and His mission, we have His command to be fruitful, what more could we ask for? All it takes is our

surrender to allow the Spirit of God to complete His work in us to the glory of God.

As sons and daughters of God we don't live for ourselves, we live to represent the Father. As the Son did nothing on His own initiative, but only what the Father was doing; so we only do what the Son has called us to do. Make disciples of all ethnic groups on earth.

We share in the intimacy of the Father and the Son. As the Son loved the Father He did all the Father required of Him. As He obeyed the Father, He abided in the Father's love.

This relationship of loving dependence and obedience enabled the Son to achieve the will of the Father; and so it is for all those who follow the example of Christ.

Our abiding in the love of Christ enables us to do the will of the Son.

Abide in Him

Living Water Resources

A sunset scene over a river. The sun is a bright yellow circle in the center of the sky, which transitions from yellow at the top to orange and then dark blue at the bottom. In the background, there are silhouettes of trees and several power line towers. The foreground is dark and shows some reeds or grasses.

Come to the River

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