

A large, solid black silhouette of a cross is positioned on the left side of the image. The cross is composed of two thick, rectangular beams that intersect at their centers. The background is a bright blue sky filled with soft, white, scattered clouds. The lighting suggests a bright day, with the sky being a clear, vibrant blue.

Cross-Culture and Christ

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The cross misunderstood

For some: a tragic event; a murder

For some: repulsive; the celebration of a Man who
shed His blood in a public arena

Cross-Culture and Christ

For most: a religious symbol that may or may not have
power today

A symbol to work some sort of "magic" for those who
wear it or hang it in their house

Conquest mentality

2000 years ago in and around Jerusalem, wanted Messiah to come to rule and reign; to conquer enemies

Jesus was speaking of the glory of the cross; His own death. The cross permeates the New Testament

Conquest mentality

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me”

(Galatians 2:20)

Conquest mentality

"But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." (Galatians 6:14)

"For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified."

(1 Corinthians 2:2)

Rituals of the church communicate the death of
Christ
Baptism

Underwater: the death and burial of Jesus

Romans 6:3 Out of water: the resurrection

Communion: "Proclaim the Lord's death till He
comes." (1 Corinthians 11:26)

George McLeod

"I simply argue that the cross be raised again at the center of the market place, as well as on the steeple of the church. I'm recovering the claim that Jesus was not crucified in a Cathedral between two candles, but on a cross between two thieves, on a town garbage heap at a crossroads of politics so cosmopolitan they had to write His title in Hebrew and Latin and Greek.

George McLeod

At the kind of place where cynics talk smut and thieves curse and soldiers gamble. Because that is where He died and that is what He died about. And that is where Christ's people ought to be and what church people ought to be about."

The Pain of It

Matthew, Mark, and Luke give details about His suffering in the Garden of Gethsemane

John reveals Jesus' anguish going on days before the Garden, arrest, trial, and crucifixion

The Pain of It

Troubled: Greek meaning is: to agitate, stir up, trouble
(John 5:4)

Agitated because of the Cross; He knows and has
always known

The Pain of It

On the cross He will bear the sin and guilt of every person past, present, and future.

"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (2 Corinthians 5:21)

The Pain of It

"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse (for us for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree')" (Galatians 3:13)

In the Garden, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," (Mark 14:34 NIV)

The Pain of It

"And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground." (Luke 22:44)

The real anguish would be separation from the Father
on the cross

The Glory of It

He could have gotten out of it. "Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?"
(Matthew 26:53)

This was His life's work: "Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." (Revelation 13:8)

The Glory of It

The center of God's plan.

If Jesus did not die, there would be no substitute for
sin

If there were no substitute for sin, there would be no
salvation from our sin

The Glory of It

If there were no salvation from our sin, there would be
no hope

If there were no hope, there would be no future

His deepest motivation was to glorify the Father

The Glory of It

"Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2)

God's voice from heaven

One of three times

At Jesus' Baptism

"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

(Matthew 3:17)

God's voice from heaven

At the Transfiguration:

"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.
Hear Him!" (Matthew 17:5)

Now: "I have both glorified it and will glorify it
again." (John 12:28) Just before His suffering

Authenticates Jesus as God's Son