

Vocabulary Word #5 – CRUCIFIED

Vocabulary for Our Times

February 17, 2019

INTRO... A Culture that Shuns and Avoids the Word—“Crucified”

*The contemporary life script of the achievement culture is to arrange a life that delivers constant pleasurable feelings, to keep the social and psychic borders up, to keep negative feelings outside. ...Compounded by the belief, communicated from Disney children's movies to self-help literature, that a life free of negative feelings and painful emotions is eminently possible. This belief is confirmed by contemporary parenting styles and dominant educational practices that insulate the young from the painful realities of life, the sting of disappointments and consequences, and the limiting reality of a broken creation. ...However, life in the Spirit, as described by the New Testament, is a very different proposition than the accruing of positive emotions and feelings. God's salvation plan is a far broader canvas than the simple inflating of individual emotions. **Mark Sayers**, *Strange Days: Life in the Spirit in a Time of Upheaval* (pp. 159-160).*

*"The modern person who sees personal human flourishing as his or her highest commitment ...Christianity is not a means to human flourishing. In fact, Christianity instructs us to die to self, consider others more important, turn the cheek, offer ourselves as a living sacrifice, enter into weeping and sadness with others. This of course creates a conflict with the modern ...[which] sees God and neighbor as enhancements that we can take or leave when they become burdensome or demand sacrifice. ...our churches are potentially filled with people who see their current church commitments and investments into community as enhancements to their flourishing. When these 'enhancements' begin to impede our 'flourishing' by asking for sacrifice and demanding discomfort, the temptation will be to put off faith as an intolerable intruder... This may not be a conscious or explicitly stated condition, but it is the way hearts are formed in the West today..." **John Starke**, "Preaching to a Secular Age", (from 'Our Secular Age', p. 43)*

Alarmingly increasing numbers of Americans seem to have difficulty seeing any limits to their entitlement. ...the 20-somethings who took six years to earn bachelors' degrees, left college with \$10,000 in credit card debt, and still feel entitled to big-screen televisions because "other people" have them, ...the 40-somethings who used sub-prime mortgages to buy far more expensive houses than their earnings could support and now can't make their

payments. ... the 60-somethings who've had the latest cars, the best vacation photos, the latest fashions and no savings for several decades, and are now bitter as they face a choice between working for the rest of their lives or subsisting on Social Security.

American popular culture increasingly fosters entitlement attitudes ... This teaches young people growing up in our culture that the world revolves around them. It teaches them that if something makes them feel better about themselves, they should do it or have it. ... By promoting excessive self-focus and encouraging self-indulgence, our culture reinforces a worldview in which entitlement attitudes thrive: that life is all about getting what we want.

Brian Russell, "How Entitlement Attitudes Harm America" (Read more at <http://www.wnd.com/2009/03/92966/#ekHlVqflFa7fqxLb.99>)

...Our Culture is Effectively Teaching Us to be UNATTRACTED to Today's Vocabulary Word...

"CRUCIFIED" = a multifaceted word... It describes something done to Christ on our behalf, something credited to our account and our identity, and something that we do as we live our lives; ...it is a death that fulfills the will of the Father, so that there can be the restoration of life. ...it is a 'MINDSET' as well as activity

"Crucified" ...a Daily Word

Philippians 2:1-8 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

The Attractive Starting Place (v. 1-2): “encouragement” ... “comfort” ...
“participation in the Spirit” ... “affection and sympathy” ... “shared
love” ... “full accord and one mind”

The Realistic Problem, since we’re no longer in Eden (v. 3-4): THESE qualities are
in our way—They Need a REMEDY!! ...The Fall Left This INNER VOID that
busies us with constant attention and self-obsession—

The Lowest Point is to be Valued & Pursued above all else! (v. 5-8): ...a ‘mindset’
in us that originates from Jesus Christ. ...an attitude and ability to ‘displace
self’ to ‘deny self’s desperate cravings’ and to be available to obey the will
of God and to serve others, as though their need outweighs your own
needs

***THE Great Act of all Actions Ever Taken by any human being is bound
up in this word—“Crucified”***

...It’s UPSIDE DOWN!!!

Luke 9:23-24 And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself
and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever would save his life will lose
it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.

“Let him deny himself”??!!—Deny Himself???

***...Jesus Comes Along, sets up a “Kingdom Kiosk”, and offers me This Deal!!!? ...It
sounds crazy and ridiculous because of How Far We Have Fallen!***

*“The flesh in this sense, denotes the whole personality of man as
organized in the wrong direction, as directed to earthly pursuits rather
than the service of God.” Leon Morris, “The New Bible Dictionary”, p. 426*

It sounds ‘ridiculous & wrong’ today!! ...to teach people to ‘deny’ their personal impulses, their dreams, their preferences, and self-definitions—

...the Culture of Our Day comes along, sets up it’s “Cultural Kiosk”, and offers me this Deal— “If anyone would find a life that is fulfilling and rewarding, let him deny all external thoughts, traditions, or norms, and to thine own self be true—and don’t let anybody tell you, you can’t!

“...what I have called ‘the Culture of Authenticity’. I mean the understanding of life ... that each one of us has his/her own way of realizing our humanity, and that it is important to find and live out one’s own, as against surrendering to conformity with a model imposed on us from outside, by society, or the previous generation or religious or political authority. ...One can trace the strengthening, even radicalization of this ethos ...a growing sense of the right, even the duty, to resist established codes and standards, to declare openly for the art and the mode of life that they felt inspired to create and live.” Charles Taylor, “A Secular Age”, p. 475

“Taking Up the Word ‘CRUCIFIED’

Luke 9:23 And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

Romans 6:5-7 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin.

- **A crucified life is BOTH a ‘justification’ truth and a ‘sanctification’ truth—it is something done for us that is credited to us and becomes part of our ‘self-reality’—our Identity ...but it is also a truth that we ‘put on’ and ‘take action’ (that sounds like ‘self-denial’) in our daily routines.**

Gal 2:20 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.

...A past completed action, that is joined to an ongoing life being lived out

Gal 5:16-17, 24-26 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do ... ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Rom 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Gal 6:14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

...This vocabulary word operates in both our identity category, as the basis and resource and generator of our actions—AND the daily action category that makes decisions and takes actions that are "in step with the Spirit"

"We must affirm in this context that crucifying sin is a central practical issue in Christian experience. This neglected area of truth must be recovered, and in our present culture must be taught to younger and older Christians alike. Undoubtedly one of the reasons some younger Christians make shipwreck of their faith is because they have never learned how to deal with indwelling sin, or, what is worse, have been encouraged to see it as an irrelevance. It is one of the signs of our morally confused church life today that there is so much hesitation here. We have lost confidence in the clear commands of scripture."

Sinclair Ferguson, "The Christian Life", p. 158-159

“In the Gospels, as in the Letters, the cross was the most vivid symbol-word for death. To follow Christ means to pronounce the death sentence upon sin and to be in process of putting that sentence into effect by a daily crucifixion of all that sets itself against God's purpose in our lives. Inevitably, ... the sources of our temptations differ according to our personalities, temperaments and circumstances. Each of us has to learn, often the hard way, where our own personal areas of weakness lie. But the necessity to mortify sin, however it makes its presence felt, is universal. No man can be Christ's disciple without daily carrying the cross.” Sinclair Ferguson, “The Christian Life”, p. 159

We all want things like “freedom”, “liberty”, “encouragement”, “comfort”, “love”, “sympathy”, “affection”, “experiencing the Spirit”—Php 2

... “let this mind be in you that was also in Christ” ...or... “let this vocabulary word be a readily experienced and accessible word in your life in 2019!!