

CUTTING CORNERS OFF THE CROSS

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December 16, 2018
Gray

INTRODUCTION:

1. 1 Corinthians 1:17
2. Cutting corners has become a national pastime here in America. We try to figure out the easiest, fastest way around. Homes are built in this country without the proper framework, shoddy, and someone has cut the corners. Cars – you name it, because we live in a throw away society.
3. Sometimes in the Christian lives we live we try to cut corners. We want discipleship with commitment, we want cheap grace – a grace that costs us nothing. And sometimes preachers, elders, in an effort to make the gospel more palatable, try to lessen the life we are called to live by cutting corners. No minister has the right to smooth off the corners of the cross.
4. Some try to smooth off the corners of the cross. Try not to make the cross so bad. We try to make chocolate crosses – sweet, nice. We wear jewelry that is not a burden. We have failed to remember that in Jesus' day the cross was the electric chair. It was a cruel instrument of death, reserved for the worse of criminals. We try to lessen its meaning!
5. But there are 8 corners of the cross we dare not smooth off.

II DISCUSSION

SIN – We strive to smooth the corners off sin to do so is to dismiss what the cross is all about

- A. Sin is a transgression of God's law. 1 John 3:4 It is that that has broken the relationship between us and God – Isaiah 59:1.
- B. Sin is serious to God – it caused God to send His Son to die on the cross. He has reserved hell for those who fail to repent of sin. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9
- C. What do we do, say about sin? It isn't that serious. We whitewash it. Name it something else – adultery is an affair, homosexuality is being gay, lying is "A little fib," disobedience to God is freedom to choose what we want. And each time we play this game Satan helps us take the edge off sin a little bit more; makes us become desensitized to it and its power. Isaiah 5:18-25

REPENTANCE – First word of Jesus' preaching

- A. Matthew 4:17. Repentance – change of mind, resulting in a change of will, resulting in a change of life! And it is Jesus who commands it!
 1. Luke 13:3, 5
 2. Matthew 21:29 Son "I will not" but afterward repent and went
 3. Luke 24:46-48; Acts 2:38; 3:19
- B. The hardest command we will ever obey – because we have to admit that we are wrong, that our choices were not what they needed to be.
- C. We cannot leave out repentance.

CONFESSION – Confess sins to God, and some to one another

- A. James 5:16
- B. Many times when we become Christians we confess Jesus before men, and believe that is the only time we need to do so. Matthew 10:32-33; Acts 8:37; Romans 10:9-10
- C. These two confessions are not the same.

SELF-DENIAL – Deny ourselves and take up our cross daily

- A. Luke 9:23
- B. We want to be self-indulgent today

DISCIPLINE – Cannot be true disciples without true discipline

- A. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

HOLINESS – Purity in thought and deed

- A. 1 Peter 1:15-16

STEWARDSHIP – A man and his money

- A. 1 Corinthians 4:1-2

HUMILITY –

A. James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:5-6

III Conclusion

1. There is no removing the corners off of the cross
2. No matter how hard we try they are still square
3. What have you been doing to the cross of Christ?
4. Let us leave it alone, but let us respond to its call

Source: Tommy Tidwell 2003