

PHILIPPIANS: BECOMING FRIENDS OF THE CROSS

Life Group Questions | Sunday, May 17, 2020

How would you differentiate shadow/counterfeit Christianity vs. the real thing?

Read Philippians 3:17-21. What stands out to you? What challenges you? Encourages you?

Paul is inviting believers to be *friends of the cross*, to adopt the mindset and lifestyle of the Jesus who did not despise the cross, but met the fate of the cross out of obedience to God and love for sinners.

How do we become friends of the cross? What themes have been resonating with you from the last few weeks as we've studied the book of Philippians?

What does it mean to live by hope and not instant gratification? Practically, how do you see that playing out in your own life?

Talk about the following postures we can have toward the cross. What posture do you gravitate toward?

Enemy? Worshipping vanity and pride?

Stranger? Wanting to be "religious," but keeping your distance from getting too caught up in the Jesus stuff?

Fan? Love the singing. Love the potlucks and entertainment. Maybe even appreciative of what Christians have to offer to the world, but "non-committal"?

Friend? Willing to be "implicated" in all the messiness of the cross of Christ, in faith, hope, and love?

Close in prayer. What gets in the way of following Jesus and becoming a friend of the cross? Pray for one another, bringing those barriers and sticky places to God.