

## 12. Crucified with Christ Gal 2:19-21

◇ *Gal 2:19 "For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God."*

I tried to justify myself & prove myself to God by being very zealous & religiously following every aspect of the law ... but the more I tried the more I failed! The law wore me out & killed me! 'By the law, sinned revived & I died!' (Rom 7:9)

Rom 7:1 says that the law has dominion or authority over a man as long as he lives ... if he dies, he is released from the obligation to the law and the power of the law.

As long as Paul tried to keep the law, it condemned him. But when he trusted Christ, he "died to the law" — death means separation ... he separated himself from the law ... He gave up on the law & stopped trying to meet all its requirements — instead, he began to live for God by faith.

Cf. 2 Corinthians 5:7 "For we walk by faith, not by sight."

But on what basis could he claim to die to the law & to be free from the law?

Basically he says: "Christ substituted for me on the cross ... He died in my place ... Christ so closely connected & identified with me that I can say that I was crucified with Christ ... when He died, I died ... he bore the curse & condemnation of the law that was mine ... so therefore I am now free from the law ... it has no more hold on me! Christ's saving work rescued me from the curse of always trying but always failing to uphold the law! I am dead to all expectation of salvation through the law, and have taken refuge in the grace of Christ."

Cf. Romans 7:4-6 "Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God. (5) For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death. (6) But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter."

◇ *Galatians 2:20 "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."*

The Greek tense in Gal 2:20 is important: the phrase "I have been crucified together with" is one Greek word *sunestaurōmai* - it is a verb in the 1st person singular, indicative mood, passive voice, perfect tense.

1. 1st person singular : "I" = individual & personal
2. Indicative mood means it is a statement of objective fact ... not a command or instruction to do anything. It is simply telling the 'way it is' .. the reality of the situation.
3. A verb is an 'action word', but it is in the "passive voice" which means I didn't do it ... something was done to me .... something was applied to me ... something happened to me.
4. Perfect tense: has to do with a completed action, but present, ongoing results of that completed action.

In English some translations say "I have been crucified with Christ" ... some say "I am crucified with Christ" Which is correct? Actually it is a combination of both!

Something has happened to me: "I have been connected with the death of Christ" ... it's a past, completed, perfect action ... I didn't connect myself ... it was applied to me ... and I am still currently experiencing the effects of that union .... The results are ongoing!

Important to note that the concept being taught is: I have been crucified-together-with Christ ... when Christ was crucified He not only represented me, but He also connected Himself to me ... it is as if I was a part of His dying ...

*This is a difficult concept to understand ... but it is helpful to look at it by comparing other NT passages such as John 15:5, Rom 6:3, 1 Cor 12:13 and Col 3:3 ... these explain that believers have been baptized by the Holy Spirit into Christ ... we are connected to/ joined to/ united to Christ ... we share in His death, burial & resurrection AND in His life, position & privileges ... we are "accepted in the Beloved", and our life is "hidden with Christ" ... we are adopted as sons, heirs of the Father, joint-heirs with the Son! Christ is my life ... for me to live is Christ!*

I love that hymn: Christ Liveth in Me ... Oh what a salvation this ... Christ liveth in me!

"I have been crucified with Christ" ....put to death with Christ ... If we are joined to Christ, the power of His death makes us dead to self and sin and the world.

*"The believer is identified with Christ in His death. Not only was He crucified on Calvary, I was crucified there as well—in Him. This means the end of me as a sinner in God's sight. It means the end of me as a person seeking to merit or earn salvation by my own efforts. It means the end of me as a child of Adam, as a man under the condemnation of the law, as my old, unregenerate self. The old, evil "I" has been crucified; it has no more claims on my daily life. This is true as to my standing before God; it should be true as to my behavior.*

*The believer does not cease to live as a personality or as an individual. But the one who is seen by God as having died is not the same one who lives. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. The Savior did not die for me in order that I might go on living my life as I choose. He died for me so that from now on He might be able to live His life in me. The life which I now live in this human body, I live by faith in the Son of God. Faith means reliance or dependence. The Christian lives by continual dependence on Christ, by yielding to Him, by allowing Christ to live His life in him.*

*Thus the believer's rule of life is Christ and not the law. It is not a matter of striving, but of trusting. He lives a holy life, not out of fear of punishment, but out of love to the Son of God, who loved him and gave Himself for him."*  
(Believers' Bible Commentary)

cf. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 "For the love of Christ compels us (motivates us), because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; (15) and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again."

Cf. Titus 2:11-14 "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, (12) teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, (13) looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, (14) who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works." - redeemed by blood ... gripped by grace ... Christ living in me ...motivated by love ...