

Entrust Biblical Masculinity Lesson 5: Masculinity & the Cross 11/10/22

INTRO:

**1. The cross declares that a man is in one of two categories before God, absolutely.**

- 1 Corinthians 1:18 For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
  
- 2 Corinthians 5:16-17 Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him in this way* no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
  
- 2 Corinthians 5:20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

**2. Our natural sinful pride says that, though we are not perfect, we aren't that bad, but the cross says we are totally condemned before God.**

- John 3:18 He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.
- John 3:36 He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."
- Romans 3:9 we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin

**3. Man's natural, fallen tendency is to believe that we have what it takes to meet our greatest need, but the cross declares that man contributes nothing to his greatest need except his sin.**

- Romans 3:20 by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law *comes* the knowledge of sin.

- Jeremiah 2:22 Although you wash yourself with lye And use much soap, The stain of your iniquity is before Me," declares the Lord GOD.

- Isaiah 64:6 For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment

**4. Man's natural impulse is to love, establish, and keep ourselves, but the cross says we must be sick of ourselves, die to ourselves, and glory in Christ who frees us from ourselves.**

- Luke 9:23-26 And He was saying to *them* all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. <sup>24</sup> "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. <sup>25</sup> "For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself? <sup>26</sup> "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and *the glory* of the Father and of the holy angels.
- Galatians 6:14 But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

- Matthew 10:37-38 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. <sup>38</sup> “And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

**5. Our human pride says the promotion and exaltation of self is our greatest need, but the cross says forgiveness is our deepest need.**

- Matthew 16:26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?
  - Ephesians 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace
- a. Fallen man has a drive to exalt himself in some way.

**6. Men tend to strive in various ways to gain for themselves a sense of self-worth, but the cross declares that our worth is fundamentally in the love of God shown by the substitutionary death of Christ in our place**

- 1 John 4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.
- Romans 8:31-34 What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; <sup>34</sup> who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

**7. Man's natural, fallen tendency is to performance-driven for acceptance and self-actualization among those around him, but the cross declares that the infinite love of living God rests permanently upon a man from eternity past, present, and into eternity future.**

- a. And what a rest for the soul
- b. That the performance tread-mill, we can step off of it, and end the quest for acceptance with people, and rejoice that in Christ, we are accepted by God the Father from all eternity
- c. Our human pride tells us to secure approval from others however possible, but the cross declares God's unshakable approval upon sinners by faith in Christ
- d. guys can tend to look for identity markers for themselves.
- e. We might do this b/c we want to be seen as something that we value; or we want to have a sense of self-worth.
- f. And so we look for identities, may sub-cultural identities, which the village holds up as valuable; esteemed; praise worthy, and, we seek to sculpt ourselves into the esteemed image.
- g. Paul did this:

- Philippians 3:3–8 we are the *true* circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless. <sup>7</sup> But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ
  
- Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; and 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 up for me.
- Jeremiah 9:23–24 Thus says the LORD, “Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; <sup>24</sup> but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the LORD.
  
- 8. **Our pride says that you can muster up peace for yourself or find peace within through our labors and achievements, but the cross says peace is only through surrendering to Christ**
  
- Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ