



We Swim for Jesus!

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Galatians 2:20

Bible Verse for Week #4 **Life Application notes**

1. We Christians have been “crucified with Christ” because Jesus took our place on the cross, paying the penalty for our sin. When we trusted Christ as Savior, we became identified with Him. Because of what Christ has done for us, God has declared us “not guilty” (see Romans 8:1-3). Now we are free to live for Him. Unfortunately, however, many Christians still carry the burden of guilt feelings for sins committed even though they have been totally forgiven. This guilt cripples their effectiveness and robs them of joy. If you have given your life to Christ, thank God for His forgiveness and serve Him wholeheartedly.
2. Although we have been “crucified with Christ,” we are still alive, with mortal, physical bodies and sinful natures. Although our sins have been forgiven, we still must make daily choices to obey God. In other words, when we became Christians, God didn’t change us into creatures who only follow His orders. Every day we are confronted with opportunities to listen or disregard – obey or disobey – God’s wishes and commands. God doesn’t force us to follow Him, and He allows us to experience the painful consequences of going our own way. One way to resist the temptation to do what is wrong, however, is to remember the cost of our sin – Jesus suffered and died for us in our place. We live because He died. Exercise your freedom of choice and choose to live for Christ.
3. The phrase “Christ lives in me” means that God is with us in our struggles. Through the Holy Spirit, Christ is working inside us, helping us want to obey God and then giving us the strength and power to do what is right (see Philippians 2:13 and 4:13). Not only had God forgiven us, He has given us Himself. When you feel alone or don’t know which way to turn, remember that Christ lives in you. Talk to Him about your problems and ask for His guidance.

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“Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:34

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4. It's easy to live only by our sense, trusting solely what we see, hear, taste, smell, and touch. But there is a reality that is beyond what we can sense, and that's where faith enters the picture. Living for God means living by faith, trusting God even when we can't see the way ahead or don't know the eventual outcome of a decision. Remember when you trusted Christ as Savior? You believed the facts about Jesus, trusted Him completely, and asked God to forgive you and make you His child. Although you didn't see Jesus or hear God's voice, you believed. Living for Christ involved the same kind of faith, affirming the facts, trusting the person, and then doing what God wants. Are you waiting for supernatural confirmation of an important decision or trusting only in what you can see? Instead, trust God – step out in faith.
5. Although Christ died for us and we were crucified with Him, the focus of Christianity is not on dying, but on living. Because we have been crucified with Christ, we have also been raised with Him (Romans 6:5). Legally, we have been reconciled with God (2 Corinthians 5:19) and are free to grow into Christ's likeness (Romans 8:29). And in our daily lives, as we continue to fight sin, Christ's resurrection power is abundantly available to us (see Ephesians 1:19-20). Christ lives in us – this is our reason for living and our hope for the future (Col. 1:27).
6. In the next verse, Paul explains to the Galatians that those who think that they can be saved by keeping Jewish laws treat Christ's death as meaningless. Believers today are still in danger of treating Christ's death as meaningless (1) by giving people extra laws to obey before accepting them into fellowship and (2) by believing they can earn acceptability with God by what they do rather than by trusting completely in Christ's work on the cross. If we could be saved by being good, then Christ would not have needed to die. But the cross is the only way to salvation.

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