

## “The Cruciformed Christian”

Pastor Tim Allen

**Key Truth:** The Christian is shaped by the Cross of Christ and all it Symbolizes.

In the Middle Ages, the church became so enamored of the symbol of the cross that they even began forming church buildings into the shape of the cross. It was called “Cruciform Architecture.” Sadly, though, they also became so wrapped up in formalizing the cross as a religious symbol that they neglected what the cross actually symbolized: Sacrifice, Atonement, Redemption, and Justification. This gave rise to the need for the Reformation. However, even though the church of the Middle Ages isn’t a great model of biblical fidelity, the idea of “cruciformity” *does* illustrate an important spiritual truth. The life of the Christian and the life of the Body of Christ are cross-shaped – formed by the gospel, the word of the cross.

### DISCUSS

Read **Galatians 6:11-18** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon entitled “The Cruciformed Christian.”

### DIG IN

#### 1. The Cross-Less “Christian” (Galatians 6:12-13)

In what ways may some people walk as enemies of the cross?

Is it possible to walk as an enemy of the cross and still be a Christian? Why or why not?

The “Judaizers” were those who tried to force the Gentile converts to follow the ceremonial rituals of Judaism in order to be considered Christians. In what ways did these “Judaizers” seek to make a good showing in the flesh (Galatians 6:12)?

In what ways do cross-less “Christians” try to evade persecution (v. 12b)? Why is that contrary to the gospel?

In what ways might we invite hypocrisy even though we seek to follow a gospel-centered life?

#### 2. The “Cruciformed” Christian (Galatians 6:14-18)

In what ways did Paul boast in the cross of our Lord (v. 14)? How may we imitate his faith?

Why should we focus on “a new creation” (v. 15) in the cross-shaped life? What are some examples of the *new* things we should focus on?

In what ways did the “marks” (*stigma*, v. 17) of Jesus point to the accomplishments of the Cross for the apostle Paul?

### DO

What lessons do you learn from these verses that you will take with you throughout the coming week?