

Taking Up the Cross – Part 2 (Mat. 16:24; Mk. 8:34; Lk. 9:23)

Taking up the cross = Seeing and applying the cross as an _____ of death to all that is keeping me from living in _____ to Christ

Death to the _____ – our _____ (Rom. 8:7-8; 7:14)

- I no longer have to be _____ to my _____
- *Freedom* to say _____; *freedom* to _____ (Rom. 8:2)
- *Application*: When tempted to do wrong, I can follow: 1) the **old** pattern (Eph. 2:3); or 2) the **new** – speak _____ in my heart

Death to _____

- *Freedom* from _____ → Christ can live out _____ ambition in me
Mt. 6:24 / Gal. 2:20 - _____ is in control now / 2 Cor. 5:15
- *Application*: For whom / what am I giving _____?

Death to the _____ (Rom. 12:2) – Who am I listening to?

- The _____? (1 John 2:15-16; Gal. 6:14)
- Our _____ for impact (Dan. 3)
- _____ what comes my way as I obey Christ (Jn. 15:18)
- Freedom from the _____ (Jn. 16:33)

Dealing with _____ (Col. 3:3,5) – *put to death* in Christ

- *Application*: Speak _____ – my _____ have died with Christ
- Cycles of sin (Rom. 13:14) – make no _____ for the flesh
 - 1) Jas. 1:14-16 – I need the _____ of the cross
 - 2) _____ and speak the truth. Yield to the _____ control
 - 3) Why we struggle with cycles of sin
 - a) Live in the _____ instead of the _____ (Gal. 5:16-17)
 - b) Double _____ (Rom. 8:6)
 - c) Keep making _____ for the flesh
 - d) The deception of _____ (Prov. 10:9; 28:15)
- As a believer grappling with sin, the cross means...

- 1) God's _____ and _____ (Col. 2:13)
- 2) *Application*: _____ in confession (1 Jn. 1:9)

Decision Will I take up my cross: 1) in my _____ 2) on my _____

Discussion Questions: Taking Up the Cross

1. Have you given serious thought lately to giving up self-ambition for Christ-ambition? What steps might you take to work through this?

What are some Scriptures you might use?

What are some steps a parent might take with their children to encourage them to give up self-ambition for Christ-ambition?

- Let's consider children who are senior high school and older.
- What steps might you take with younger children?

2. What steps might you take in order to *take up the cross* as the instrument of death to the world system in your life?

What are some Scriptures you might use?

What are some steps a parent might take with their children to encourage / instruct them on this one?

3. What makes personal application of the principle of taking up my cross difficult?
4. What is *one thing* you definitely want to take away with you from today's message?

How do you plan to *follow through* on that *one thing*?