

Why Independence is Contrary To Christ, the Cross, and Communion

Text: Various

Date: 7-4-21 @ 10:30 AM

I. For the believer in America, living independently of God has become the normative way of life (Rev. 3:17).

Many people in the church today want to live independent from God. Christ died in order that we would become fully dependent on God.

The church as a whole today is living independent of God and dependent on their material things – their money and riches, their belongings, their goods and have no need for God in their life other than 1x a week on Sunday. They believe they are in need of nothing.

Materialism + God = Independent from God

- **Jesus wants to be a part of His church.**
- **Jesus wants to feed His church.**
- **There is a need for Jesus to be a part of His church.**
- **Jesus is being exchanged for the things of this world.**
- **The church is living independent of the Savior who died for them and shed His blood for them.**
- **And the church has neither much need for Christ since they have enough things to cover for Him.**

The church has replaced Christ with a worldly, compromising form of materialistic living. They call on Him when they are in dire need or when they start to run out of or a little short of possessions.

Transition: Christ did not die so that His church can then live in self-sufficiency. Christ died so that Christians should live in reliance upon Him.

II. We must constantly remind ourselves as believers in America that our greatest example of dependent living is the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Christ's death we find the ultimate dependence on His Heavenly Father.

Matt. 26:42

Matt 26:54:

Not only was the character of God at stake, so was the authority of God's Word. Jesus proved that He was here to do what had been planned, what was to be fulfilled, and what was willed. **The Word was fully dependent to God and His Word.**

Luke 23:46:

What does it mean that Jesus' commended his spirit to His Father? The word *commended* means *to present* or *to set before*. The sense here is of *entrusting* His life to His Father.

Christ was not trying to escape or get out of death.

Instead Christ trusted His Father in His death to raise Him up again (Psalm 16:8-11).

The word *feared* means *reverential fear or awe* and it involves the idea of complete submission and devout dependence. Jesus was completely devoted to His Father and committed His spirit into His Father's hands. That's dependence!

Jesus trusted His Father through His life and His death.

And so just as our Lord found Himself to be completely secure in the Father, so we find the same security for we have the same Father. Even in physical death we know that because of what was accomplished on the cross, because of the resurrection, because of the exaltation, we know that our hope and trust is in the same Father. He will not fail us; for He did not fail His Son.

III. For the believer in America, the cross of Christ compels us to live dependently on God (Gal. 2:20).

The cross is not an item to worship; rather, the cross unites us to Christ. The cross allows us the privilege to share in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

The cross or crucifixion with Christ means that we died, or as Paul said, "I am crucified with Christ" (literally I have been and am now crucified with Christ).

The cross means that we no longer sit on the throne of our life for we have given that over to Christ. Christ now lives within us. We are no longer dependent on our own strength, but we depend as we live by faith in the Son of God. This must be our choice every day to live that out for it isn't automatic.

Gal. 2:20 says this: "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live [independence], but Christ who lives in me [dependence]. And the life I now live in the flesh [independence] I live by faith in the Son of God [dependence], who loved me and gave himself for me [why we celebrate communion]."

Our independence was costly for Christ. Every time we live independent of God, we sin against the cross of Christ. When we love anything other than God, we sin against the cross. When we don't act like the Good Samaritan with service in view, we sin against the cross. When we selfishly lift our agenda, refuse to consider others views, live in a constant state of negativity, we sin against the cross. When we are angry, bitter, ungrateful, impatient, and unkind, we sin against the cross.

When we love God by choosing to obediently follow Biblical confession, we live in a state of dependence and live out the cross. When we love others by looking on the things of others and not our own, we live in a state of dependence and live out the cross.

Application: How can we demonstrate dependence on God?

- Prayer
- View life from God's perspective
- Trust in God's sovereign plan
- Remember the cross and live by it
- Repent of selfish ways and thoughts
- Replace independent thinking with dependent cross-living.

Cross-living means every day recognizing that any sin that I do today is that which placed Christ on the cross. Cross-living means when tempted to sin, we choose to meditate on dying to self. Cross-living means searching your heart for sinful pride, repenting of it, and choosing to pray for victory. Cross-living is a life of humility before God and man. Cross living is placing other's rights before your own rights. Cross-living is living a life of dependence upon God.