

“For Christ’s Sake”

⇒ **Text:** Ephesians 4:32

⇒ **Intro:**

- o There are certain things in life that we are motivated to do because of someone or on the account of someone else.
- o For example:
 - A man will work two jobs for his family’s sake.
 - In other words, he will make a sacrifice to provide for his family.
 - A mother will suffer for her child’s sake.
 - We are told in the scriptures that King David was willing to bless the house of Saul for Jonathan’s sake.
- o There are some things the scriptures tells as Christians we should be motivated to do because of or on account of Christ.
 - In other words, there are some things as Christians we should do for Christ’s sake.

⇒ **For Christ's sake we are to-**

⇒ **I. Forgive**

- o “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.**” (Eph 4.:32).
- o God for Christ's sake has forgiven us, so we for Christ's sake are to forgive others.
 - Even until seventy times seven – **See Matt. 18:21-22.**
- o It is so Christ like to have compassion and pity, and a heart ready to bless and forgive - **See Col. 3:12-13.**

⇒ **For His sake we are to-**

⇒ **II. Serve One Another.**

- “For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and **ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.**” (2 Cor. 4:5).
- The scriptures tell us, “...**the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.**”
 - So he that will be chief among the followers of Christ will be the servant of all.
 - Jesus told his disciples in **Mt. 20:27**, “**And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:**”
- Paul gloried in this, that he “**made himself servant unto all, that he might gain the more**” (1 Cor. 9:19)
- The service of each member, when done for "Christ 's sake," is done for the good of the whole body, not otherwise.
- Men pleasers add nothing to the perfecting of the Body of Christ.

⇒ **For His sake we are to**

⇒ **III. Always Delivered unto Death.**

- “For we which live are always **delivered unto death for Jesus' sake**, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. ” (2 Cor 4:11).
- For His sake self is to be continually surrendered unto death, "Killed all the day long," that the life of the now glorified Jesus might be manifested in us.
- On a daily basis for His sake we are to:

- Reckon ourselves dead to sin.
 - Put off the old man and put on the new man
 - Mortified our members upon this earth.
- o As result then we experience freedom and the power of His risen life.
- **Romans 6:7**, “For he that is dead is freed from sin.”
 - **Romans 6:4**, “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: **that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.**”
 - **Romans 6:11**, “Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
 - John the Baptist recognized this when he said concerning his relationship to Christ, “**He must increase, but I must decrease.**”
(**John 3:30**)
- o If one is to find his life then he must lose it for Christ’s sake (**Matt. 10:39**).
- o For Christ's sake the martyrs faced
- The sword,
 - The fire, and
 - The floods, and entered into rest.
- o If we suffer for Him, we shall also reign with Him.
- o The muffled cry of the Christ-despising is still, “Save thyself and come down from the Cross.”
- **Let our answer be**, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh

I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” (Gal. 2:20)”

⇒ **For Christ 's sake we should-**

⇒ **IV. Take Pleasure in Afflictions.**

- o “Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses **for Christ's sake**: for when I am weak, then am I strong. ” (2 Cor. 12:10)
- o Taking pleasure in afflictions is definitely counter to the thinking of the world.
 - However, according to the Word of God, the Christian is made spiritually strong in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses.
 - You see when the flesh is weak because of infirmities, reproaches, necessities, persecutions, distresses that is when God can really use the Christian.
- o The Apostle Paul is great illustration.
 - Paul had some affliction to deal with during his entire ministry.
 - In fact, the beloved physician Luke was with him most of the time.
 - But despite the affliction, Paul was mightily used of the Lord.
- o As Christians we often forget that infirmities, reproaches, necessities, persecutions, distresses is part of our living for the Lord.

- Paul, the apostle reminds of this in **Phil. 1:29**, “**For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;**”

⇒ **For His sake we are to-**

⇒ **V. Strive Together in Prayer.**

- o “Now I beseech you, brethren, **for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake**, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me;” (**Romans 15:30**)
- o As Christians we may differ in many things, but surely we may all agree in this, that for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake we will pray for one another.
 - Paul saw the importance of other believers’ prayers for him as he asked the church at Rome to strive together in prayer for him.
- o Church members seem to strive together a lot of times for the wrong thing.
 - Trying to get rid of pastor.
 - Trying to destroy another brother or sister’s reputation through gossip and evil reports.
- o One can only imagine what could be accomplished by the church if they strove together in prayer.
- o Acts 4:31, we see the early striving together in prayer and look at the results, “**And when they had prayed**, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.”

⇒ **For His sake we must also-**

⇒ **VI. Labour Patiently.**

- o “I know thy works,.... And hast borne, and hast patience, and for **my name's sake** hast laboured, and hast not fainted.” (**Rev. 2:2-3**)
- o It is easy to lose patience, and to faint when the labor is not directly “**for His Name's sake.**”
 - The secret of perseverance and victory lies in doing all as unto Him.
 - The work given us to do is HIS work, and must be done in His Name, and for His sake.
 - Therefore, for His sake labor patiently for the salvation of the lost, and the edification and spiritual growth of the saved.
- o The word of God reminds us in **Hebrews 12:3**, “For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.”
- o My dear friend is you feel like quitting and throwing in the towel, “Consider Him” and all that he went through to finish the work that the Father had sent Him to do.

⇒ **Finally, we must be willing for His sake to be-**

⇒ **VII. Counted Fools.**

- o “We are fools **for Christ's sake**, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised.” (**1 Cor. 4:10**).
- o Everything the Christian does for Christ’s sake the world considers foolish.
 - **Preaching** – “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish **foolishness;...**” (**1 Cor. 1:18**)

- “But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks **foolishness;**” (1 Cor. 1:23)
- **The things of God** – “But the natural man receiveth not the **things of the Spirit of God:** for they are **foolishness** unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” (1 Cor. 2:14)
 - The Holy Bible as their final authority (AV1611)
 - Preaching and teaching the Book
 - Reading, Studying and memorizing the Book
 - Give cheerfully not because have to but want to!
 - Witnessing – getting people saved
 - Prayer
 - Sacrificing for the sake of God’s work
 - Giving to Missions
 - Trusting in the shed blood of Christ to save your soul from hell.
 - The Resurrection
 - The Rapture
 - The Second Coming
 - The 1,000 year reign of Christ on earth
- o The Christian is considered a fool by the world because of his focus.
- “While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.” (2 Cor. 4:18)

⇒ **Conclusion:**

- o The world may use the expression “For Christ’s Sake” in cursing.
- o However, we have seen the things that you and I as Christians should be motivated to do on account of Christ or “**For Christ’s Sake**”
 - 1) Forgive one another
 - 2) Serve one another
 - 3) Always Delivered unto Death
 - 4) Take Pleasure in Afflictions
 - 5) Strive Together in Prayer
 - 6) Labor Patiently
 - 7) Counted Fools