

The Power of the Cross
1 Corinthians 1:17

I. Report Card

A. 2017 Minnesota Environmental Report Card

1. Indicators
 - a. Lakes: Common Loon
 - b. Forests: Golden winged warbler
 - c. Wetlands: Brush-tipped emerald dragonfly
 - d. Prairie/grasslands: Regal Fritillary butterfly
 - e. Riversstreams: black sandshell mussels
2. Changes in populations traced to environmental factors that can be sustained, altered, or adapted for improvement

B. Corinthian Report Card

1. Reveals specific highlights that indicate the general health of the congregation
2. Chloe's report:
 - a. "F" in essentials
 - (1) Partisanship 1:11-4:21
 - (2) Specific Sexual Immorality 5:1
 - (3) Sinful Pride 5:2-13
 - (4) Lawsuits 6:1-11
 - (5) General Sexual Immorality 6:12-20
 - b. Partisanship
 - (1) False pride based in the false assumption of one level of expertise or authority over another
 - (2) **Pride empties the cross of its transforming power**

C. Key Question:

1. What is the power of the cross in the life of a believer
2. What is the power of the cross in the life of the church?

II. What is the Power of the Cross?

A. What is the cross?

1. The need for a Savior
 - a. **Romans 3:23 (ESV)** *²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*
 - (1) Not merely a theological observation, it is a divine verdict
 - (2) God created each of us to know Him, to love Him, and to reveal Him in the world in all His glory
 - (3) By nature and by choice, we fall short, we miss the mark for which we were created
 - (4) Instead of living for God's glory, we live for our own glory
 - b. The selfish choice to reject God's plan for us, to live life on our own terms rather than His is sin
 - (1) Guilt (both legal and moral sense)
 - (2) Subjects us to justice

- c. **Romans 6:23 (ESV)** ²³*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
- 2. **The provision of Christ**
 - a. The atoning sacrifice
 - (1) **Romans 5:8 (ESV)** ⁸*but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
 - (2) **2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)** ²¹*For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*
 - (a) He does not merely carry the burden of our sins
 - (b) He became sin for us, receiving in Himself the full justice due our guilt
 - i) The full divine disgust
 - ii) The full divine rejection
 - iii) The full divine wrath
 - iv) The full divine punishment
 - b. The divine propitiation
 - (1) **1 John 4:10 (ESV)** ¹⁰*In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*
 - (2) **John 1:29 (ESV)** ²⁹*The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!*
 - (a) Jesus takes away the sin of the world by becoming the sin of the world and satisfying God's righteous judgment in our place and on our behalf.
 - (b) **Jesus steps up, in love for His Father and in love for you, and takes your place, you punishment so that instead of the justice you deserve God may show you the mercy you don't deserve.**
- 3. The cross is that moment, that event,
 - a. when grace meets sin,
 - b. when love meets rebellion,
 - c. when sacrifice meets selfishness
 - d. When the transforming power of divine mercy gives a soul dead in trespasses and sin new life through faith in Jesus Christ.

B. **What is the power of the cross?**

- 1. The power to confront real sin with real truth
- 2. The power to forgive real sin with real mercy
- 3. The power to reconcile real sinners with their real Creator
- 4. The power to sustain believers in their battle against temptation and sin

III. **The Power of the Cross for You**

- A. **Repent and Believe**
- B. **Commit and Obey**