

His Cross and Mine
Jerry Moon
[contents of slide presentation]

1 His Cross and Mine

2 Mount of Blessing, 71:

“The Father's presence encircled Christ, and nothing befell Him but that which infinite love permitted for the blessing of the world. Here was His source of comfort, and it is for us. He who is imbued with the Spirit of Christ abides in Christ. The blow that is aimed at him falls upon the Saviour, who surrounds him with His presence. Whatever comes to him comes from Christ. He has no need to resist evil, for Christ is his defense. Nothing can touch him except by our Lord's permission, and ‘all things’ that are permitted ‘work together for good to them that love God.’ Romans 8:28.”

3 Parallels—His Cross and Mine

1. Our crucifixion, like His, cannot be self-orchestrated. No one can nail himself to the cross. You cannot commit suicide by crucifixion. Someone else has to do it for you. Crucifixion of self means that the sinful “self” is the recipient of the action, not the initiator of the action. Self cannot crucify self.
2. The method is contained in a single word—“surrender”—continually repeated. Surrender means giving Him title to and control over everything you have and are.

4 His Cross and Mine

3. This “surrender” or “crucifixion” can take various forms in actual life experience: repentance; confession; studying God’s Word as a personal revelation of His will for you; consenting to give up your plans and desires; choosing to conform every aspect of life to God’s will for you; praising God in spite of affliction, because you know He has everything under control, He never makes mistakes, and He always keeps His promises.

5 Parallels

4. But the essence of surrender (based on the conviction that He loves you personally and infinitely) is simply trusting Him to the point of totally relaxing in His hands, choosing to live according to His will, and accepting everything that happens to you as part of His plan for you (Rom 8:28; 1 Cor 10:13).

“The very first step in approaching God is to know and believe the love that He has to us; [1 John 4:16] for it is through the drawing of His love that we are led to come to Him.” E. G. White, *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, 104.

6

- God's part is to orchestrate circumstances to reveal to us everything in our lives that we love more than we love Him, so that one by one all those areas of life can be brought within the bounds of our surrender to Him.

7

- He often tackles our biggest idol first of all, such as when he challenged the Rich Young Ruler to sell all he possessed and give away the money to the poor (Matt 19:21).

8

- Others were asked to forsake their business in order to follow Him (Matt 4:18-22; 9:9).

9 Why does He make war on something in me that is not, in itself, sinful?

- The key is this:
- Because it is His love He offers, and our love He seeks, the only non-negotiable demand is that we renounce every competing love.
- Any obvious competition for His love He will address head-on.

10

- God may wait a long time to reveal an aspect of your life that gives Him unconscious competition for your affections, but when He reveals it, He requires a decision.
- But the most fundamental competing love is the love of self. That's why when self is surrendered, the heart is set free to enjoy loving God.

11 Precious promises for those who follow Christ and crucify self

- "Let us not spare ourselves, but carry forward in earnest the work of reform that must be done in our lives. Let us crucify self. Unholy habits will clamor for the mastery, but in the name and through the power of Jesus we may conquer. . . ." *God's Amazing Grace*, 223.

12 Precious promises are made to those who seek Christ and crucify self

- "To him who daily seeks to keep his heart with all diligence, the promise is given, "Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Rom 8:38-39, *God's Amazing Grace*, 223.

13

- "True happiness will be the result of every self-denial, every crucifixion of self." *Testimonies*, 4:345.

14

“The path to freedom from sin is through crucifixion of self, and conflict with the powers of darkness.” *Our High Calling*, 321

15

“All who will with determined effort seek help from above, and subdue and crucify self, may be successful in this world, and may gain the future, immortal life.” *Testimonies*, 4:339

16

“If now we crucify self, and live for Christ, God will give us a place in the mansions He is preparing for those who love Him.” *Signs of the Times*, April 17, 1901

17 How does this happen in real life?

Adventists believe Ellen White’s messages “were not given to take the place of the Bible,” but

- to “bring the minds of God’s people . . . back” to the Word that they have “neglected to follow” (*Testimonies*, 5:663),
- to “illuminate and apply” the teachings of Scripture (*Great Controversy*, vii), and
- to make “very plain” “the essential principles of godliness” (*Testimonies*, 2:605).

18

“We should go to Jesus just as we are, confess our sins, and cast our helpless souls upon our compassionate Redeemer. This subdues the pride of the heart, and is a crucifixion of self.” *Review and Herald*, March 5, 1889, par 11.

19

- “When the power of Satan over souls is broken, we see men binding their will to the cross, and crucifying the flesh with the affections and lusts. It is indeed a crucifixion of self; for the will is surrendered to Christ.”
- “To Abide in Christ the Will Must Be Surrendered,” *Signs of the Times*, Oct. 29, 1894, par. 6.

20

“Men could not endure the perfection of Christ’s character, and they took and crucified Him. There is a crucifixion that must go on in our lives, a constant dying to self and sin. We must walk circumspectly, that our lives may preach the gospel of Christ to those with whom we associate. If we will speak and walk circumspectly, the light of Christ will be revealed in our lives.” E. G. White, *Manuscript Releases*, 7:25

21

- Confession, repentance, and surrender of the will, are all means by which self is crucified. However, the crucifixion *of* the old self is *not* crucifixion *by* the old self.

22

- Repentance, confession, and surrender all require the consent of the individual will, but the power to do these is supplied *by* God *for* the believer.
- But we have to choose His will. Romans 8:13 is very explicit that “by the Spirit, *you* [the new creation in Christ] put to death the deeds of the body.”

23 His Work and Mine

- Similarly, Philippians 2:12, 13 calls believers to “work out” the salvation that God “works in you” (NKJV).
- The believer is called to choose obedience and surrender, and to “resist the devil” (James 4:7), even to the point of suffering (1 Peter 5:6-10), but the conquering power “both to will and to do” comes from God.

24

- In a very real sense, crucifixion is something one *surrenders to*, not something one can do for oneself. The command to “crucify self” indicates the unavoidable necessity of *the believer’s choice and consent* to accept crucifixion, but the actual process of crucifixion is in the hands of Another—even Jesus.

25 Promises

“The promise is, ‘If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.’ 1 John 1:9.

“Here is a work for individuals to do, not only to confess their sins but to put them away. Can they do this in their own strength? No, but this work of crucifixion of self can alone be done through Jesus Christ our Sacrifice for sin. We must come to Jesus in faith and rely upon the merits of the blood of Christ.” *1888 Materials*, 456.

26 No one is able or expected to orchestrate their own crucifixion

“You all want to choose for yourselves the process of purification. How hard it is for you to submit to the crucifixion of self; but when the work is all submitted to God, to Him who knows our weakness and our sinfulness, He takes the very best way to bring about the desired results.” *Testimonies*, 3:543.

27

“You need not devise ways and methods of bringing about your own crucifixion; self-inflicted penances are of no avail, and will be found worthless when the test comes upon you. We are to surrender the heart to God, that He may renew and sanctify us, and fit us for his heavenly

courts.”

28

“We are not to wait for some special time, but today we are to give ourselves to him, refusing to be the servants of sin. Do you imagine that you can leave off sin by your own human power a little at a time? You cannot do this.”

29

- The Father loves us who believe in Christ as he loves his only-begotten Son. Thus by faith we can grasp the righteousness of Christ, and our Saviour saves us from all sin. . .
- You must take the blood of Jesus and apply it to your heart by faith; for that alone can make you whiter than snow. . . .”

30

“But you say, ‘The surrender of all my idols will break my heart.’

“This is what is needed. In giving up all for God, you fall upon the rock and are broken. Give up all for Him without delay, for unless you are broken you are worthless.” “The Necessity of Receiving the Holy Spirit,” *Signs of the Times*, Aug. 8, 1892

31 Darling Idols

- “How few are aware that they have darling idols, that they have cherished sins! God sees these sins to which you may be blinded, and He works with His pruning knife to strike deep and separate these cherished sins from you.” *Testimonies*, 3:543

32 False Humility

“Much fitful, spurious humility is seen among professed Christians. Some, determined to conquer self, place themselves as low as possible; but they try only in their own strength, and the next wave of praise or flattery carries them up out of sight. They are not willing to submit wholly to God, and He cannot work through them.” RH, May 11, 1897 par. 3

33 Don’t try to serve God and self

“Take no glory whatever to yourself. Do not work with a divided mind, trying to serve God and self at the same time. Keep self out of sight. . . .

“Your only safety is in entire dependence upon Christ.” “The Grace of Humility,” *Review and Herald*, May 11, 1897, par. 3

34

- When one has tried it, but it doesn’t seem to work, a very common reason is that they tried to “reform” their behavior, but did not make an unreserved surrender of themselves, that is, they did not “crucify self.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 48

35

- “Trouble does not arise because men have too much will, but because they have too much *self-will*. The will should be wholly sanctified to God. . . . [In] every one who enters the gates of the city of God, *self must be crucified*.” *RH*, Dec. 6, 1892, par. 4.

36 Four aspects of the failure to crucify self

(1) Lack of surrender: “They do not give themselves entirely into the hands of Christ, seeking for divine power to do His will.”

(2) “They are not willing to be molded after the divine similitude”; i.e., they want God’s blessings, but feel no need of being transformed in character.

(3) “In a general way they acknowledge their imperfections” (they make vague, nonspecific confession), but

(4) “they do not give up their particular sins,” so “with each wrong act the old selfish nature is gaining strength.”

Ellen G. White, “The Grace of Humility,” *Review and Herald*, May 11, 1897, par. 3.

37 The refusal to give up “particular sins” prevents the “surrender of the will.”

“The surrender of the will is represented as plucking out the eye or cutting off the hand.” Ellen White, *Mount of Blessing*, 61.

38

“Let those who are easily irritated refuse to retaliate when words that vex them are spoken.”

“Crucify self, in the place of seeking to crucify your brethren. ‘If any man will come after Me,’ Christ said, ‘let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me’ (Matt 16:24).”

Mind, Character, and Personality 2:522

39

“Be courteous, tenderhearted, forgiving toward others. . . . Strive to understand the weakness of others. Help the needy, crucify self, and let Jesus take possession of your soul, in order that you may carry out the principles of truth in your daily life. *Testimonies*, 4:33

40

“A work is before you which you do not comprehend. It is to die to self, to crucify self. You have a quick, impetuous temper, which you must subdue.” *Testimonies*, 2:423

41

- “I have a message for every family that has been robbing God in smaller or larger sums. Repent! Humble your hearts before God. Crucify self and selfishness. No longer use your entrusted means for selfish indulgence.

42

“Show your friends and neighbors and your children that you regard money as too precious to be used for selfish purposes.

“Give for the advancement of the Lord’s cause the money you would otherwise spend for [nonessentials].” *Review and Herald*, Nov. 26, 1901, par. 11.

43

“Strive earnestly for unity. . . . Crucify self; esteem others better than yourselves. Thus you will be brought into oneness with Christ.”

Testimonies, 9:188

44

“Crucify self. Fight constantly against the inclinations of the natural heart.” “Our Duty as Christians,” *Signs of the Times*, September 12, 1900, par. 11.

45

“The cross of Calvary is the great center of the plan of salvation; and we are to begin to crucify self at once Not an angry word is to fall from the lips of parents. They are to be constantly under the influence of the Holy Spirit. They are to . . . reveal the kindness, tenderness, and love of Christ.

46

“And yet they are not to overlook the faults of their children. They are not to gratify their wishes simply because they desire gratification. This is not the way to train children for God. Children are made happy by being brought under right control.” “The Need of Home Religion,” *Review and Herald*, June 22, 1905, par. 12.

47

“Let us use the talent of speech aright, speaking only words that will bless and strengthen those who hear. Let us crucify self, that in our hearts may grow up a strong love for Christ and for one another.” E. G. White, *Manuscript Releases*, 10:143; cf. *RH*, Feb. 24, 1903, par. 13.

48

- “Dear sister, . . . you bring darkness into your own soul by dwelling upon the mistakes and imperfections of others. . . . You need to crucify self and to check the disposition to magnify your neighbors’ faults and to talk thoughtlessly. *Testimonies*, 4:135

49

“As long as pride and envy and evil-surmising predominate in the life, Christ does not rule in the heart. . . . In the lives of those who are partakers

of the divine nature there is a crucifixion of the haughty, self-sufficient spirit that leads to self-exaltation. In its place the Spirit of Christ abides, and in the life the fruits of the Spirit appear. *Manuscript Releases*, 7:263

50

“The grace of humility should be cherished by every one who names the name of Christ; for self-exaltation can find no place in the work of God. Those who would co-operate with the Lord of Hosts must daily crucify self, placing worldly ambition in the background. . . .”

51

- “O, let us all determine to crucify self and to imitate God! . . . Our work may not be appreciated; we may be misjudged, falsified, and mistreated by those who claim to be Christians; but we are to look to Christ and follow him. Christians are to walk even as he walked. They are to have the mind of Christ, to possess that faith which works by love and purifies the soul. E. G. White, “Let Us Love One Another,” *Review and Herald*, Feb. 23, 1897, par. 9.

52

“That which may be regarded as hard to give up must be yielded. The overbearing, dictatorial word must be left unspoken; then a precious victory will be gained. True happiness will be the result of every self-denial, every crucifixion of self.” *Testimonies*, 4:345

53

- Someone may say: But I’ve tried to give up my “particular sins” and I don’t seem to be able.
- To the ministers at the 1889 General Conference session in Battle Creek, Ellen White addressed this issue.

54

“The promise is, ‘If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.’ 1 John 1:9. “Here is a work for individuals to do, not only to confess their sins but to put them away. . . .”

55

“Can they do this in their own strength? No, but this work of crucifixion of self can alone be done through Jesus Christ our Sacrifice for sin. We must come to Jesus in faith and rely upon the merits of the blood of Christ.” *1888 Materials*, 456

56 Mission Impossible

- Clearly, the crucifixion of self is impossible, except through Jesus. That’s why it is so humbling, because despite its simplicity, we are incapable of doing it—except as we yield ourselves to the grace of God.

57

"There is constant need of private communion with God. We must take in the spirit of Christ if we would impart it to others. We cannot meet satanic and human agencies combined unless we spend much time in intercourse [communion] with the Source of all strength.

58

"There are times when we should get away from the sounds of earthly toil and human voices, and in retired places listen to the voice of Jesus. . . ."

59

"Thus we may taste of His love and imbibe His spirit.

"Thus we shall learn to crucify self.

"This course of action may seem impossible to the human mind.

"I have not time," you may say. . . .

60

"But when you consider the matter as it really is, you lose no time; for when you secure the power and grace that come alone from God, you do not accomplish the work. It is Jesus who is the real worker.

"Without me," says Christ, "you can do nothing." John 15:5, quoted in *Our High Calling*, 116.

61

In conclusion, please consider Col 3:1-17, a passage that directly connects the crucifixion of self with the lifestyle issues of the entertainment media.

The basic presupposition of the passage is the believer's dying to self:

"Having been buried with him in baptism, you also have been raised with him through your faith in the power of God who raised him from the dead" (Col 2:12 NET).

Translation from *The NET Bible* www.netbible.com

62

- 3:1 Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 3:2 Keep thinking about things above, not things on the earth, 3:3 for you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

63

- 3:4 When Christ (who is your life) appears, then you too will be revealed in glory with him. 3:5 So put to death whatever in your nature belongs to the earth: sexual immorality, impurity, shameful passion, evil desire, and greed which is idolatry.

64

- That last verse, Col 3:5, strikes directly at the use of popular visual

media as entertainment for Christians. Entertainment implies enjoyment, and to enjoy watching others sin is to mentally participate in their sins.

65

- Jesus said in Matt 5:28 that the one who gazes lustfully at another person has already committed mental and emotional adultery. A recent study indicates scientific confirmation of Jesus' words.

66

"Ever watched someone grimace after they sniffed a carton of sour milk? Even though you were spared a whiff of stinky milk, to your brain, you might as well have been sniffing the milk yourself, a report from Italy suggests. . . .

67

" Researchers used a tool called functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to monitor the brain activity of 14 men as they watched short movies of people smelling pleasant, disgusting and neutral odors. Brain activity was also monitored while participants themselves smelled a variety of odors. . . .

68

" The researchers found that a part of the brain called the anterior *insula*, which previously has been linked to feelings of disgust, was activated not only *when participants smelled* something disgusting but also *when they watched others* take a whiff of something stinky."

Merritt McKinney, "Brain Hard-Wired for Empathy," citing the journal *Neuron*, Oct. 30, 2003,

http://preventdisease.com/news/articles/brain_hard-wired_empathy.shtml, accessed May 9, 2005.

69

- The thoughts and feelings (which make up the character) are molded, trained, and can be corrupted, not only by what we do, but by what we watch others do.
- "If the thoughts are wrong, the feelings will be wrong; and the thoughts and feelings combined make up the moral character" (E. G. White, *Testimonies*, 5:310).

70

- Let me remind you again that we are talking here about principles, not about rules; about what goes on in the heart, not mere external behavior. Not every movie or TV program has these characteristics and effects, but many do.

71

- Nor can we withdraw from contact with the world if we are to reach the

world for Jesus (see 1 Cor 5:9-10). But there's an essential difference of motive between the unavoidable encounter with evil that we immediately repel and flee from, and the deliberate choice to dwell on evil for entertainment.

72

- Paul continues with another list of character traits the Christian must “put off”: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language, and lying; all kinds of prejudice and class consciousness such as pride of nationality, race, or ethnicity; and status based on social, economic or educational differences (Col 3:8-11).

73

- Are these things found throughout the entertainment media? Even in the news, these are the typical characteristics of the media.

74 Col 3:12-17

- Finally, in Col 3:12-17, Paul sets forth a description of Christian culture, the culture of Christlike love that should be the identifying characteristic of the church.

75 Colossians 3:12

- “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with a heart of mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.”

76

“... bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if someone happens to have a complaint against anyone else. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also forgive others. And to all these virtues add love, which is the perfect bond.” Colossians 3:13, 14.

77

- “Let the peace of Christ be in control in your heart (for you were in fact called as one body to this peace), and be thankful.
- “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and exhorting one another with all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, all with grace in your hearts to God.” Col. 3:15-16.

78

- 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

79

- These are the characteristics of *real disciples*. We dare not be otherwise in this uncertain world than *real disciples*. If *real discipleship* is my consuming passion, these are the characteristics that will be increasingly seen in my life.

80

- Whatever hinders me from developing those characteristics must automatically be called in question.
- Again, I'm presenting principles. I'm not seeking to be more stringent than is Scripture. But I am inviting you to assimilate these biblical principles and let the Holy Spirit guide you in applying them.

81

- This has been an overview—like a 30-minute introduction to flying an airplane.

82 Conclusion

- Nobody expects to qualify for a private pilot's license in 30 minutes. But you have to start somewhere. Then you continue studying, learning from the experience of other pilots, and finally, from hundreds of hours of flying.

83 Conclusion

- When you have become fully competent in the kinds of flying that your private license allows, you may develop more advanced skills and become licensed for instrument flying, commercial flying, air transport, multi-engine, or helicopter flying.

84

Some will learn to fly jets, or even spacecraft. But you have to start somewhere. And if you want to fly spiritually, what we have been talking about is a place to start.

85

- “No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him.” 1 Cor 2:9 ESV

86

- For more info, path2prayer.com
- EGW Handout
- I invite you to take up your cross and go with Jesus – it's the most amazing flight you've ever imagined.

87

- Sources for further reading:
- Augsburg, Dan [E.] “Dying to self” parts 1 and 2.
- Augsburg, Dan E. “Self, overcoming.” In EGW Encyclopedia, forthcoming, 2011
- Coon, Glenn A. ABCs of prayer and many related books. CDs of his sermons available from *JustifiedWalk.com*

88

- MacGuire, M.

- ✓ Does God care?
- ✓ His cross and mine.
- ✓ Lambs Among Wolves.
- ✓ The Life of Victory
- Philips, Frank
- ✓ His Robe or Mine (Available free of charge from JustifiedWalk.com)

89

- White, Ellen G.
- ✓ Desire of Ages
- ✓ Christ's Object Lessons
- ✓ Steps to Christ
- ✓ Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings.