

Cruciform Community Part 2

Philippians 2:1-11

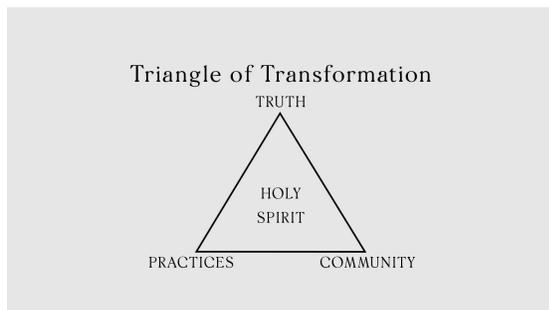
03.31.2019

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Philippians 2:1-11

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to
his own advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature[b] of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!
Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.



Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved, as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.
Amen.

Jesus in Matthew 16:25

For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

Cruciformity is when our life takes the shape of Christ's cross.

- Is this possible? Is it realistic that a whole community of people would/could live lives that take the shape of Christ's cross? If so, what would it look like in the here and now? What sort of tensions would we have to manage? What values would mark that community?

Philippians 2:5

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus

Philippians 2:6

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage.

Philippians 2:7

Rather, he made himself nothing by taking on the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

Philippians 2:8

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Philippians 2:9-11

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Isaiah 45:22-24

Turn to me and be saved,
all you ends of the earth;
for I am God, and there is no other.
By myself I have sworn,
my mouth has uttered in all integrity
a word that will not be revoked:

Before me every knee will bow;
by me every tongue will swear.
They will say of me, "In the Lord alone
are deliverance and strength."

First, Christ initiates his own humiliation; second, God does not act to save Christ from death on the cross. These distinctions are crucial in distinguishing Christ as Lord and critiquing the pagan view of earthly status.

- Lynn Cohick, *Philippians: The Story of God Bible Commentary*

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Values of Cruciform Community:

1. Unify around Jesus and common commitment to his way of life.
2. Contribute to building the community you want to see; don't just consume it.
3. Move opposite to your survival instincts (if you fight, turn the other cheek; if you flee, stay engaged; if you freeze, take action).

Three Tensions of Cruciform Community:

1. Enjoy your abundant life and serve others self-sacrificially.
2. Bless others through generous giving and bless others by receiving from them.
3. Graciously accept community as it is and lovingly hope for what more God is making.

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