



Thinking Like a Christian January-March 2021 Zooming in on the Cross

7. The triumph of the Cross 21st February

Recap: we have seen...

1. The Cross is at the heart of the gospel
2. Substitution: Christ was condemned in our place
3. What happened at the Cross: the infinite value of the blood of Jesus, the God-man
4. What happened to us at the Cross: we died with Christ, we have been raised with Christ, we shall be raised with Christ
5. The effectiveness of the Cross: Jesus' death achieved the salvation of all his people
6. The Sufferings of the Cross: Christ suffered in his body and soul sufferings greater than all others, in order to lift suffering off all of his people for ever.

1. The Cross is God's triumph over the powers of evil

Luke 11:14-23	What has Jesus come to achieve?
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When does Jesus achieve this?

Hebrews 2:14-15

John 12:27-32

The Cross is God's defeat of the devil and all his associated forces of evil.

Colossians 2:11-15

v15: Triumph over the rulers and authorities

How?

v11 Christ's cross was his circumcision – cut off and thrown away under God's judgment.

v12-13 So we have received the judgment already – have already died and risen

v14-15 So with no charges to lay, the devil has been disarmed.

2. The nature of the devil's power

Two things about the devil in scripture are abundantly clear:

1. He is real, evil, and powerful
2. His power is of a severely limited nature

Job 1:6-12	'The Satan'
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What can you tell about The Satan's power from this passage?

What is death?

Why does The Satan have the power of death?

Was it ever a problem for God to crush the serpent's head (Gen 3:15)?

So why does God not do it in Genesis 3?

The devil's only power has ever been to accuse us before God's own court.

But this is a terrible, terrifying power. Not because the devil is particularly terrifying but because God is; and we are guilty.

But at the cross, God has caught leviathan on a fishhook. (Job 41:1)

3. The Triumph of the cross

Col 2:15 Jesus has 'disarmed' the rulers and authorities.

What weapon has he taken away? v14.

What other weapons do they have?

Romans 8:31-39

4. The Gospel and the powers of evil.

Remember: The devil is a Pharisee.

Matthew 23:4,13

The gospel's attitude to evil is...

Jesus' triumph over evil consists in...

Christiana was puzzled and upset. The Christian Union seemed to be dividing into factions and she didn't know which was right. She was so puzzled she phoned her minister back home for advice. He asked her to explain the situation.

It had all started, she said, when someone suggested a joint tea party with the Casual Theft Society. It turned out the traditional season of Kleptomaniacs celebrated by CTS groups all over the country coincided with the third Thursday in Lent, so it seemed to be a logical point of contact, and a great opportunity for bridge building. So said I.F. Lightfingers, the de facto leader of those on the left of the CU. After all, didn't David take the bread and Goliath's sword from the temple in 1 Samuel? So really the two groups have a lot in common. 'It's right to share what we own anyway, just like the church in Acts', said Lightfingers, swiftly putting something into the bottom of his bag; 'the CU and the CTS both want to see the evils of capitalist greed done away with. Property is theft!'. But the hawks on the right of the CU were up in arms. 'It's an outrage', said F.R. Issy, a prominent conservative. How could Christians even think of joining with such a group? Theft is a terrible thing, and against the Ten Commandments. Jesus came to teach us to be good, after all. F.R. had set up a new group called 'Leave our stuff alone – Safe property means happy people', and lots of the CU have been joining it. They've started a facebook page and have been putting up posters about the right to hold on to your own things. 'We're hoping to see a whole new belief in the rights of personal property growing around the campus'. As if that wasn't bad enough, a third group, led by X.R. Sism, said that there was a Division Demon afflicting the CU and was organising all-night meetings dedicated to driving it out by Spiritual Warfare. 'When up late we stay, the Devil gives way', said X.R.

'So you see', said Christiana, 'all three groups seem to have some really good points to make and all seem really Christian in their different ways.' Her minister thought for a moment, and then said he disagreed. Why?