



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

8. The glory of the Cross

1. What is Glory?

Mark 10:35-44

What do James and John mean by 'Glory'? How is Jesus' understanding different?

Not just that service is the route to glory, but service *is* greatness in Jesus' kingdom.

Because the cross is the display of the glory of God.

John 1:14; 12:23-24

For Christians, glory has forever been defined by the cross.

What the world means by glory

What God means by glory

The cross frees us to serve (cross-shaped glory), from slavery to worldly glory

2. A display of God's glorious justice

Romans 3:25

What the world means by justice

What God means by justice

3. A display of God's glorious love

1 John 4:9-11

What the world means by love

What God means by love

1. The end of Condemnation

Romans 8:1

2. The end of Pride

Mark 8:34

- a) conceit
- b) despair
- c) true humility

3. The end of guilt

4. The necessity of forgiving each other

The Lord's Prayer: 'as we forgive those who sin against us'

Matthew 18:21-35

Giles and Norman used to be great friends, until two years ago Giles said something about Norman which got back to him and caused him great offence. Last year Giles tried to apologise to Norman for what he did, but Norman still won't speak to him about it. Giles feels terrible that he did something so damaging to a friend and doesn't know how to forgive himself; Norman still can't get over the fact that Giles could have done something he knows he never would have done. He feels it was a terrible betrayal, and says they can't be friends again. Both come to you to ask for advice. What would you say?

5. The beginning of a life of service

Mark 10:45

You're asked by your church elders for your opinion on two people who could possibly start helping with the youth work. Diotrephes is confident up front and is great at talking to people; what's more, he's several times volunteered to play his guitar and says he's keen to use the gifts he's got in the church. Demetrius seems more reticent, and other than helping wash up the mugs at the end of prayer meetings each week, he's not seemed too keen to do anything. What do you think? What questions might you want to ask?