



Series: At The Cross

Message: The Cross and Forgiveness

Date: Feb. 17-18, 2018

Scriptures: Romans 5:1-10

—[LET'S START]—

Choose a discussion opener that fits with your group:

- Do you remember one of the first times you did something as a child that made you feel guilty? What was it and how did it turn out? (As a group, score how silly those things were on a scale of 1-10).
- So far in this series, Pastor Dale has used a backpack and a ball and chain to symbolize things we let weigh us down. What is something in your life that is weighing you down?

—[LET'S TALK]—

1. Guilt is a big problem we all face that reveals we live in a morally accountable universe. What are some of our culture's beliefs and tendencies when it comes to guilt?
2. Pastor Dale said, "Guilt is a symptom point to a bigger issue. Like any symptom, it should drive us to the cure." Have you ever thought about guilt in this way? How can this understanding of guilt help us?
3. Read Romans 5:1-10. How do you feel when you read this?
4. Look closely at verses 1-5. Paul lists several things that God gives us through the cross. What are those things? What do these things mean for our guilt?
5. If you've asked God to remove your guilt yet you still feel guilty, it could be for one of three reasons: 1) You gave God your guilt but you kept your sin; 2) You gave God your sin but you kept your guilt; 3) You asked God to forgive you but not the person(s) you offended. Does this describe something you're feeling currently? What could be your next step?

—[**LET'S ACT**]—

In light of your discussion, commit to a step and live it out this week.

1. When we draw closer to Jesus, He helps us see our guilt and the sources of it. What can you do between now and Easter to draw close to Jesus on the cross for you?
2. Consider having coffee or a conversation with someone from this group. Share with each other about some source of guilt that has been weighing you down. Encourage and pray for one another.

—[**SERMON REVIEW**]—

- What's your ball and chain?
 - Guilt.
- We tend to think of guilt as a feeling.
 - Guilt is a big problem we all face and want to get rid of.
 - Some experts believe the key to guilt is to ignore it.
- Guilt is actually a symptom of a bigger issue. We have to address the issue, not just the symptom.
- The source of guilt is that we live in a morally accountable universe. It's the reminder that we've broken God's moral code, which is sin.
 - Romans 3:10; 6:23; 5:6; 12:19
 - John Stott: "The essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting Himself for man."
 - 2 Corinthians 5:21
- We have to grasp the magnitude of our sinful nature.
 - The cross should offend us. When we look at the cross, we realize that we are more sinful than we realize.
 - Jeremiah 17:9
 - Luke 7:41-50
 - Romans 5:9-11
- The key to our guilt is to keep it at the cross and to keep Jesus in your heart.

—[**NOTES**]—
