



LIFEGROUPS

Series: *At the Cross*

Scriptures: Romans 8:1-17

Date: March 3 & 4, 2018

Message: *The Cross and Yourself*

—[LET'S START]—

Over the last several of weeks, we have discovered that by the cross Jesus brings us freedom, forgiveness and endurance. Last week Pastor Kyle encouraged us to “stay fueled” and to “stay focused” so we can rejoice in suffering. What are some of the ways you stay fueled and focused?

—[LET'S TALK]—

1. Recruit someone in the group to read Romans 8:1-4 in the New Living Translation aloud. What is the “power of sin” that is at work in us “that leads to death?” (Hint: Think back a couple weeks to Dale’s quote from John Stott about the essence of our sinfulness.)
2. Pastor Dale talked of how the disciplines of sociology and psychology have stressed self-improvement, humanism and trying to take God out of the equation. What is necessary for a person or a culture to overcome its sinful nature?
3. In *Chariots of Fire*, there are two amazing runners, Harold Abrahams and Eric Liddell. The two “run” for different reasons. Harold runs fast because his sense of worth is based on performance and Eric runs fast because it is there he feels God’s pleasure. What are some reasons/motivations for people striving to do their best? Where do we sometimes find personal value?

—[LET'S ACT]—

People seek justification (from a single act to a challenging decision to a life style of extremes), but it comes with a price. When Jesus justifies you, He pays the price! Examine your actions and write a list of anything other than Christ that you turn to as a source of justification. Now mentally renounce each of them and cross the item out as you go. Claim Christ's atonement on the cross as the source of your justification before God.

—[SERMON REVIEW]—

- The cross of Christ can heal our self-image.
- One method to determine value is by what someone is willing to pay. God paid for us with the death of His Son. Your value is inestimable.
- Sociology's and psychology's attempts at social engineering and removing moral accountability have not been able to improve human nature.
- God has given us His power and presence through the Holy Spirit to be able to deal with the side of our nature which wants to make us our own god.
- Christ has taken all our condemnation on Himself and He justifies us!
- Like Eric Liddell in *Chariots of Fire*, we can choose to use our God-given talents to sense His pleasure.

—[NOTES]—
