

The Greatest Ingredient in Building Bridges –



Gal. 2:20

“Love for Christ is the Bridge to Building Life”

Gal. 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live;
yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and **the life which I
now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of
God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.**



Our theme this year is *Building Bridges*, and this morning we will continue looking at the topic that we will cover for a few more weeks:

The Greatest Ingredient in Building Bridges – LOVE

The main ingredient in building a relationship with Christ = LOVE.

The main ingredient in building a marital relationship = LOVE.

The main ingredient in building a parent/child relationship = LOVE.

The main ingredient in building a loyal friendship = LOVE.

For us to be “building bridges” with anyone,
our foundation must be built upon LOVE.



“Love for Christ is the Bridge to Building Life”

- The main ingredient in building a relationship with Christ = LOVE.

I. THE RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRISTIANS FROM CHRIST’S PERSPECTIVE

A. The Constancy of Christ’s Love

The love of Christ, for us, is unconditional.

- We do not merit His love.
- The love of Christ is ever available, accessible and effectual by the One who loves to the one loved.
- The love of Christ is not oblivious to faults, but He chooses to overlook them, and still loves each one of us.



Psa. 32:1 **Blessed** is he whose **transgression is forgiven**,
whose **sin is covered**. (Rom. 4:7)

Psa. 85:2 Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people, thou
hast **covered all their sin**. Selah.

Prov. 10:12 Hatred stirreth up strifes: but **love covereth all
sins**.

1 Pet. 4:8 And above all things have
fervent charity among yourselves: for
charity shall cover the multitude of sins.



- The love of Christ is not inconvenienced by inconveniences created by us.
- The love of Christ cares when no one else seems to notice us.
- The love of Christ is the one constant in a world of unstable callousness.
- The love of Christ is shown as He listens to hear the heart of a troubled soul.

B. The Cross and Christ's Love

Rom. 5:8 But **God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**



1 Jn. 4:9 **In this was manifested the love of God toward us,**
because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world,
that we might live through him.

10 **Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us,**
and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

The love of Christ ever abides. The perpetual challenge for
humanity is our love TO Him.



II. THE RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST FROM THE CHRISTIAN'S PERSPECTIVE

A. The Foundation for a Christian's Relationship with Christ

Gal. 2:16 Knowing that **a man is not justified by the works** of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. ...
19 For I through the law am dead to the law, **that I might live unto God.**



If a man be not justified by the works of the Law, then is he free from the Law, then is he dead unto the Law, then **may a man live as he likes? Nay, not so** (says the Apostle at the 19. Verse) For I through the Law, am dead to the Law, that I might live to God: (quite contrary) That I might live to God, I am dead to the Law. Yea, and though I am crucified with Christ, yet now I live, **and I never did live till now; but now I live: This very principle of justification by faith alone, is the fountain, and original of all my spiritual life.**

William Bridge, 1601. <https://www.galaxie.com/article/prj03-1-06>



Rom. 5:1 Therefore being **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

2 **By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand**, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

B. The Faithfulness in a Christian's Relationship with Christ

In our text, the Apostle Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, penned a wonderful conclusion in Gal. 2:20: “...**who loved me, and gave himself for me.**”

1 Jn. 4:19 We love him, **because he first loved us.**

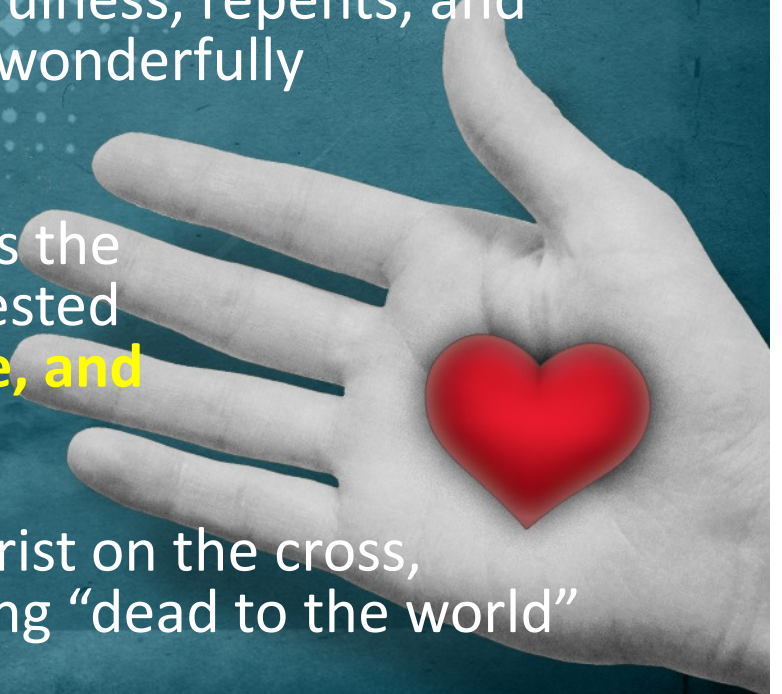


2 Cor. 5:14 For **the love of Christ constraineth us**; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

15 And *that* he died for all, that **they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him** which died for them, and rose again.

Gal. 2:20 “and **the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God...**”

- A Christian is justified by faith.
- When an unbeliever truly realizes his sinfulness, repents, and trusts Christ BY FAITH, that unbeliever is wonderfully transformed into a “Christian.”
- As the believer grows in grace, he realizes the magnitude of the love of Christ as manifested on the cross - Gal. 2:20: “...**who loved me, and gave himself for me.**”
- As the believer learns to identify with Christ on the cross, he is “...crucified with Christ...” – becoming “dead to the world”



Gal. 6:14 But God forbid that I should glory, **save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.**

- Such death results in a “resurrection” to live FOR Christ.

Rom. 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, **even so we also should walk in newness of life.**

5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness of his* resurrection:

6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that **henceforth we should not serve sin.**



2 Tim. 2:11 *It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with **him**,
we shall also live with him:*

Phil. 1:21 For to me **to live is Christ**, and to die *is* gain.

III. THE RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST'S CONSTRAINING POWER

2 Cor. 5:14 For **the love of Christ constraineth us**; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

15 And *that* he died for all, that **they
which live should not henceforth live
unto themselves, but unto him** which
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A. The Effect of Christ's Love on a Christian

Original Word: συνέχω

Transliteration: sunechó

Short Definition: I press together, confine, compel, am afflicted with, constrain

Definition: (a) I press together, close, (b) I press on every side, confine, (c) I hold fast, (d) I urge, impel, (e) pass: I am afflicted with (sickness). <http://biblehub.com/greek/4912.htm>

Phil. 1:23 For I am in a **strait** betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:



B. The Essence of Christ's Love via a Christian

- Love for Christ is shown in identification with Christ.

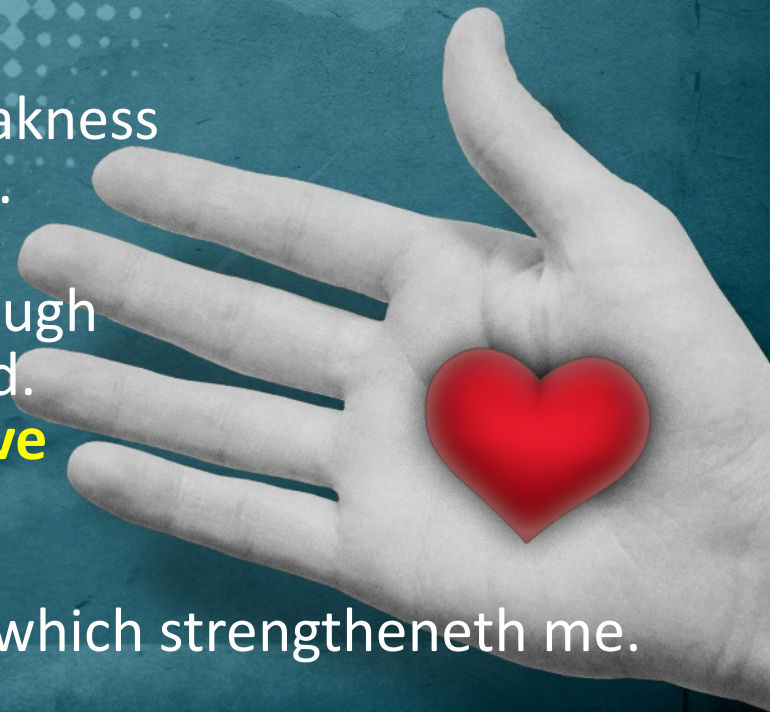
Rom. 14:8 For whether we live, **we live unto the Lord**; and whether we die, **we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.**

1 Pet. 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that **we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness**: by whose stripes ye were healed.

- A growing Christian realizes personal weakness and dependence upon the power of God.

2 Cor. 13:4 For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but **we shall live with him by the power of God** toward you.

Phil. 4:13 I can do **all things through Christ** which strengtheneth me.



- A true believer learns, loves, and lives the Word of God.

Psa. 119:2 Blessed *are* they that keep his testimonies, *and that* **seek him with the whole heart.**

9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by **taking heed thereto according to thy word.**

10 With **my whole heart** have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.

11 **Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.**

24 Thy testimonies also *are* **my delight and my counsellors.**

47 And I will delight myself in thy commandments, **which I have loved.**

48 My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, **which I have loved**; and I will meditate in thy statutes.



97 **O how love I thy law!** *it is my meditation all the day.*

103 **How sweet are thy words unto my taste!** *yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!*

105 Thy word *is* **a lamp unto my feet,** and **a light unto my path.**

111 Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they *are* the rejoicing of my heart.

112 I have inclined mine heart to perform thy statutes *always, even unto the end.*

113 I hate *vain* thoughts: but **thy law do I love.**

127 Therefore **I love thy commandments above gold;** *yea, above fine gold.*

133 **Order my steps in thy word:** and let not any iniquity have dominion over me. ...



140 **Thy word is very pure:** therefore **thy servant loveth it.**

159 Consider **how I love thy precepts:** quicken me, O LORD, according to thy lovingkindness.

161 Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but **my heart standeth in awe of thy word.**

162 **I rejoice at thy word,** as one that findeth great spoil.

163 I hate and abhor lying: *but* **thy law do I love.**...

165 **Great peace have they which love thy law:**
and nothing shall offend them.

167 My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and
I love them exceedingly.



Psa. 138:2 I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: **for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.**

2 Tim. 2:15 **Study** to shew thyself **approved unto God**, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**

- A true believer loves attending the house of God – the church.

Eph. 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as **Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;**

Heb. 10:25 **Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as the manner of some is; but exhorting *one another*: **and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.**



- A true believer loves saints and sinners.

1 Thess. 3:12 And the Lord make you **to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men**, even as we *do* toward you:

Jn. 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That **ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.**

35 **By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**

- A true believer lives righteously in this world.

Titus 2:12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, **we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;**

1 Pet. 4:2 That he **no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.**



Conclusion

Jn. 10:10 “...**I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.**”

1 Jn. 4:9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, **that we might live through him.**

Abundant life is available to all who trust Christ and live according to His precepts, for His glory. We need to live our lives in such a manner as to honor him now, and at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

2 Cor. 5:10 For **we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ**; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.

