

Appendix

The Importance of the Crucifixion for Christian Living

Instructions: The following is a slightly altered version of the opening paragraph of the Participant Handout for session 6. The author is telling us what Paul believed. We have substituted the first person for Paul. Feel free to alter this paragraph so that it says what you believe at this time. Then, as you read the Scriptures for this week and the Participant Handout, make a list of behaviors you believe are fitting for a Christian today.

For me, the fact that God's Messiah has been crucified overturns much of what previously seemed normal and right. Power and wisdom, God's ways and God's desires, take on new definitions, new meanings, and new shapes. "In Christ," in fact, there is a new creation for believers. The old world of the self-centered *flesh* is giving way to the long-hoped-for restoration of justice and righteousness under the rule of God. The Spirit of God is initiating this new creation in Christians' hearts and lives as we share in the cross of Christ, crucified to the flesh and the world, with the self-giving love of the crucified Messiah as our pattern.

Question: What does being crucified to the world look like? (Use the Participant Handout for session 6 and Romans 12–14.)