Cross Bearing−Painful

1 Peter 2: 21-25

Introduction:

1. This is a universal and necessary principle of one who follows Jesus. Luke 9:23
2. When I think of the cross, I think of pain.
3. For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps. 1 Peter 2:21
   1. 1. But what does it mean to bear a cross?
   2. 2. What kind of pain will I be called upon to suffer?
   3. Are these painful things that Jesus is discussing thrust upon me from the outside or do I choose to pick up a cross?
4. Let's look for an idea that will help us with this principle.
   1. Let us look at Jesus and Paul for illustrations.
   2. Then let us consider some applications in our lives.
5. TYPES OF PAIN.
   1. Physical.
      1. Jesus.
         1. Hit by the soldiers.
         2. Scourged.
         3. Crown of thorns.
         4. Hit Him on the head with a staff.
         5. Nailed to the cross.
         6. Suffering on the cross.
      2. Paul.
         1. His goal. Philippians 3:10
         2. Realization. 2 Corinthians 11:24-27
   2. Emotional.
      1. Jesus.
         1. In the garden of Gethsemane. Matthew 26:37, 38; Luke 22:44;Hebrews 7:5-9
         2. On the cross. 2 Corinthians 5:21; Matthew 27:46
      2. Paul decided to face persecution with faith. 2 Corinthians 4:8-10
6. PLACES OF PAIN.
   1. A. Personal.
      1. Cross bearing, crucifixion is ultimately personal, lonely. Matthew 26:56; 2 Timothy 4:16
      2. Personal growth is an individual decision that is painful, lonely. 2 Peter 3:18; 1 Corinthians 9:27
   2. Family.
      1. Right relationships between husbands and wives are related to the sacrifice of Christ.
         1. Wives. Ephesians 5:22-24
         2. Husbands. Ephesians 5:25
      2. Only the parent who is willing to suffer pain will be able to raise children according to biblical principles. Ephesians 6:4; Lamentations 3:27
         * 1. Love is willing to bear a cross, suffer pain.

Some say, “I love my child too much to correct him; it would hurt me too much to see him suffer.”

The Bible teaches that the effective parent will have to suffer, bear a cross. Proverbs 13:24

* + - * 1. “You Don't Love Me”
        2. Children. 1 Timothy 5:8
  1. Church.
     1. Paul had and showed concern. 2 Corinthians 11:28
     2. We will be called upon to bear a cross for the church as we are connected with the body. 1 Corinthians 12:26
     3. Service often requires sacrifice. Matthew 20:25-28; Galatians 6:2
     4. Right relationships require the risk of losing if they are to be saved. Matthew 5:23, 24; Matthew 18:15-17

Conclusion:

1. How will I face the cross and its pain?
   1. Carving ears - anger?
   2. Cutting out? Have I left or thought about leaving my family or the church?
   3. Calling angels?
      1. Is entertainment a rest or an escape?
      2. Is my heavy work schedule providing for my family or protection against the pain I need to be suffering with my family, either at home or in the congregation?
      3. Are “church programs,” “neighborliness,” “civic involvement” a means to help me bear my cross, or an excuse not to enter the real suffering that is needed?
   4. Crucifixion?
2. What cross do you need to take up today?

“You Don’t Love Me”

“You don’t love me!”

How many times have your kids laid that one on you?

And how many times have you, as a parent, resisted the urge to tell them how much?

Someday, when my children are old enough to understand the logic that motivates a mother, I’ll tell them.

I loved you enough to bug you about where you were going, with whom, and what time you would get home.

I loved you enough to insist you buy a bike with your own money that we could afford and you couldn’t.

I loved you enough to be silent and let you discover your hand-picked friend was a creep.

I loved you enough to make you return a Milky Way with a bite out of it to a drugstore and confess, “I stole this.”

I loved you enough to stand over you for two hours while you cleaned your bedroom, a job that would have taken me fifteen minutes.

I loved you enough to say, “Yes, you can go to Disney World on Mother’s Day.”

I loved you enough to let you see anger, disappointment, disgust and tears in my eyes.

I loved you enough not to make excuses for your lack of respect and manners.

I loved you enough to admit that I was wrong and ask your forgiveness.

I loved you enough to ignore “what every other mother” did or said.

I loved you enough to let you stumble, fall, hurt and fail.

I loved you enough to let you assume the responsibility for your own actions, at six, ten, or sixteen.

I loved you enough to figure you would lie about the party being chaperoned, but forgave you for it . . . after discovering I was right.

I loved you enough to shove you off my lap, let go of your hand, be mute to your pleas…so that you had to stand alone.

I loved you enough to accept you for what you are, not what I wanted you to be.

But most of all, I loved you enough to say no when you hated me for it. That was the hardest part of all.

(Erma Bombeck, *If Life Is a Bowl of Cherries−What Am I Doing in the Pits?*, McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1978, pp. 195,196)