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## Galatians 2:20

20. "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is not longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."

There are four important ideas contained in this one verse.

First Paul says, "I have been crucified with Christ." Paul was a man just like us, so if Paul could be crucified with Christ, so can we. And that is just what our Lord Jesus calls us to do. Several times Jesus is quoted in the Scriptures as saying, "Take up your cross." Paul tells us when he, and those people whom he had taught, initially died with Christ in Romans 6:3 and 4: "Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life."

The second idea contained in Galatians 2:20 is found in the statement: "It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me." To be crucified with Christ is to present our

bodies as living sacrifices (as Paul writes in Romans 12:1). As living sacrifices, we Christians are no longer to live for ourselves. II Corinthians 5:14 and 15 puts it this way, “Jesus died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.”

The life of Jesus is to be manifested in our mortal flesh, as the Spirit of Christ lives in the Christian’s body. Jesus Himself calls us to lay down our lives for one another. Truly, the Christian must live by this principle: “It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in Me.”

The third concept contained in Galatians 2:20 is the statement: “The life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God.” This rendering is typical of most modern day versions, but significantly differs from the original Greek. A more accurate rendering would be: “The life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God.” The modern translations “I live by faith in the Son of God” indicates that we are to merely trust in Jesus. Whereas the more accurate wording “I live by the faith of the Son of God” demands that we personally internalize the faith that Jesus had when He walked in the flesh. The difference here can be likened to being an athlete actually participating in a sporting event, as opposed to merely being a spectator of that event.

This rendering is consistent with other Scriptures such as II Peter 1:1 where the apostle addresses his readers as “those who have received a faith of the same

kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ.” The faith of Christ is to be incorporated into our lives as our own personal conviction. And of course this faith “comes by hearing and hearing by the word of Christ.” Romans 10:17 Only having the faith of Jesus Christ in our hearts will get us where we need to go.

Our verse then concludes by saying, “The Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.” Yes, Jesus’ love for us is shown in His voluntarily going to the cross. If only one of us needed Jesus to go up on the cross to save you or me, He would have done it just the same! Each one of us needs to know that with full conviction--so we will be able to take up our cross and live by faith for Him.