



## What the Cross Says 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

What was Jesus trying to \_\_\_\_\_ us when He died upon the cross? I can't imagine His being willing to take the punishment that He took without trying to relay an extremely important \_\_\_\_\_ to us. There may be other things He is saying, but here are three messages that \_\_\_\_\_.

**First, "I \_\_\_\_\_ you."** If anyone ever \_\_\_\_\_ the love of God, all he needs to do is look long and hard at the cross (1 John 4:8-10).

We have all seen \_\_\_\_\_ measures of love in our lives; people were good to us and blessed us. No one could be more eloquent, more determined, more willing to sacrifice, more moving with their love than our \_\_\_\_\_. And when Jesus says "I love you," no one can \_\_\_\_\_ it. Once in a while a person says, "I don't \_\_\_\_\_ very loved by God" (read Isaiah 49:14-16). God has not \_\_\_\_\_ you, if you are one of His. You are not a passing fad or an acquaintance or a stranger; you're His beloved \_\_\_\_\_. If you are His child, God cares about you the way that any good \_\_\_\_\_ would care for his child, but God is better than the best of fathers (Matthew 7:9-11). The love of God implies something important; it implies that you are \_\_\_\_\_. Some people regard themselves as unlovable, but Jesus sees things in us that we don't often see in \_\_\_\_\_.

**Second, Jesus is saying through the cross, "I want to \_\_\_\_\_ you"** (and I'll pay the price to do so).

God is in the saving \_\_\_\_\_, and Jesus went to the cross to save us from the sinful world around us (Galatians 1:4). By means of the cross, God made a way to save us from sin and to \_\_\_\_\_ our lives. Our salvation is personal to Jesus, it's what He was \_\_\_\_\_ to live and die for (1 Peter 2:24). Jesus couldn't bring about our forgiveness any other way than \_\_\_\_\_ His blood on the cross (Hebrews 9:22). Jesus, out of love, took the initiative to die for your sins so that you could be forgiven and have a new \_\_\_\_\_ (John 10:18). This forgiveness of God implies something; it implies that you are \_\_\_\_\_. Nothing you have ever done, nothing you're doing now, nothing you'll ever do will \_\_\_\_\_ God from forgiving you, if you repent, confess that sin and are willing to be obedient. No matter how far you have wandered away, God will always let you come home (Luke 18:9-14). God won't despise you, if you come to Him \_\_\_\_\_ and penitently (Psalm 51:17; 34:18).

**The third thing Jesus says with the cross is, "I have a cross for \_\_\_\_\_."** Jesus died for you to \_\_\_\_\_ you from sin so that you could make a difference for others (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

Jesus wants us to \_\_\_\_\_ Him, and that means we too must carry our cross (Mark 8:34-38). The cross was meant for the suffering of Jesus, but not just Him, the cross also is a \_\_\_\_\_ of love and salvation for us. We carry a cross to say to the world that we have \_\_\_\_\_ living the way the world lives and we have begun living like Christ (Galatians 5:24). Carrying our cross implies that Christ has given us a \_\_\_\_\_. Every member of the church has a \_\_\_\_\_ in God's eyes; God values every person and has a ministry for every person. Jesus invites us (Matthew 11:28-30) to help rescue a \_\_\_\_\_ world. God can take weak and insignificant people and make them into the \_\_\_\_\_ of the earth and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world.