

# ***Cruciformity — The Foundational Paradigm for Discipleship***

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## **Abstract**

*Cruciformity* and *the paradigm of the Cross* are terms that sum up all the attitudes and actions of Jesus to which glory the disciples of Jesus Christ are predestined and called to become conformed. Accordingly, these terms help explain the metaphorical meaning of the word “Cross” as used in the New Testament.

Following Christ as His disciple requires an initial commitment to cruciformity, baptism being a declaration of and a symbol of that commitment. Salvation is a process of being set free from all that is not cruciform and being empowered to become cruciform, and thus truly righteous. Faith involves absolute surrender to, dependence on, and confidence in Jesus as Lord to keep working cruciformity in us until we are mature as He was. Cruciformity is declared in our being bond-slaves of Jesus to the extent that Jesus was obedient to His Father. The New Life in us is actually the cruciform nature of Jesus and that New Life is released to flow from us by brokenness, which is itself an expression of cruciformity.

God’s kingdom is a present spiritual kingdom, whose very atmosphere, its principles, and its members are cruciform. Someday God’s kingdom will be expressed in fullness on the earth, so that the whole world will be filled with the glory of Jesus’ cruciformity.