

## **Part III — Conclusion**

On the basis of all the evidence given in Part I and Part II, it can be concluded that the word “cruciformity” is an ideal word to indicate the major metaphorical meaning of “The Cross” and that the cruciformity of Jesus forms the foundational paradigm of all that a disciple is called to be.

The 16 studies contain many implied conclusions as to the significance of the application of cruciformity to basic aspects of Christian discipleship. It is intended that readers will have come often to the conclusion during the reading of the studies that they need to deepen their commitment to be like Jesus and to focus more on His suffering and death to perceive more clearly what it means to follow Him.

It will be obvious that each section has been more of an introduction to the topics covered than an in-depth study. It is hoped that readers will be motivated to pursue research into the areas that have sparked their interest. Further reading in the books or articles that are listed in the footnotes and the bibliography will prove to be extremely beneficial.

Some logical development, no doubt, will have been noticed in the order of the studies. The glory of the Cross (#1) was predestined by God (#2) to be lived out in us whom Jesus has called to follow Him as disciples (#3). Baptism is a declaration of and commitment to this cruciformity (#4) and the beginning of the process of being

saved from all that is not cruciform (#5). Our righteousness consists of conformity to Christ's cruciformity (#6) and accomplished by faith, which includes commitment, dependence, and confidence in God to work it out in us (#7). We are called to be humble bond-slaves (#8), as Jesus demonstrated in His incarnation, life, and death (#9). The Christ Who lives His life in us is cruciform just like Jesus Christ (#10); and His glorious life flows from us as we experience brokenness (#11). Christ's life in us is nurtured by our spiritually eating His body and drinking His blood (#12). Our maturity as Christ's disciples is measured by our cruciformity (#13). The Kingdom of God is a kingdom of cruciformity, and we enter into it and spread it by living and preaching cruciformity (#14). Full victory in living and spreading the Kingdom is achieved through the Cross and by living out the Cross (#15). Those who enter into this victory, will be part of spreading the ultimate expression of the Kingdom of God throughout the whole earth (#16).

Following a conclusion by readers to more deeply commit themselves to being conformed to the Cross, there is great need to find ways of implementing such a commitment into their devotional lives and learning how to apply the paradigm of the Cross to every aspect of Christian experience, including all relationships. This thesis has not attempted to do much in these regards for the sake of space and to keep the thesis more theological than practical. However, that is not to imply that such considerations are not vitally important. May every reader daily make the pursuit of cruciformity a central part of his or her devotional life and be taught by the Holy Spirit how to live out the paradigm of the Cross in every way possible.