

The Community of the Cross

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Text: 1 John 3:16-20

Introduction:

True Christian communities aren't formed in sanctuaries,
classrooms, or fellowship halls.

They are formed at the foot of the cross.

True communities are formed when people discover that they share a common _____.

A _____ approach to building churches focuses on language, ethnicity, and socio-economic status as the keys to our sense of personal identity.

A _____ approach to building churches focuses on shared _____ systems and _____ commitments as the keys to our sense of personal identity.

When we get to Heaven, we will realize that the only thing that we ALL have in common is the cross of Jesus Christ!

We all:

Have _____.

"...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Romans 3:23

Have received the same opportunity to _____ in Jesus Christ.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16

Will someday _____.

"Misao Okawa of Japan, born March 5, 1898, is the oldest living person in the world whose age can be documented."

Will someday stand before God to be _____.

"By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly."

2 Peter 3:7

Have been given the same opportunity, through Christ alone, to stand in _____ on the Day of Judgment.

"And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus."

1 John 4:16-17

Have been given the same opportunity to _____ Jesus Christ.

"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God--- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."--John 1:12-13

Conclusion:

People who play church focus on their differences, while those who truly experience the love of God are forged into a single community by that love!
