



**"No Cross,
No Crown"**

The Cross and Crown

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In the last edition of this newsletter, we looked at the hard teaching that caused many of Jesus' disciples to desert him, concluding that, when he spoke of eating his flesh, Jesus was referring to our need to fill ourselves with the Word of God. In this edition, let's consider the second half of his statement: Why did Jesus say that we must drink his blood?

At the Last Supper, Jesus equated his blood with the Communion cup, which he referred to as "the cup of the new covenant in my blood." The blood, then, is the cup of sacrifice – a point that Jesus underlined in Gethsemane, when he asked the Father, if it were possible, to have the cup taken from him. You will also remember that, when James and John asked Jesus about sitting at his right and left in Heaven, he framed his answer in terms of drinking the cup that he was going to drink – ultimately asserting that they, too, would have to drink it.



As followers of Christ, our call includes more than just the blessing of partaking in the Bread of Life. We, like the Twelve, are called to partake in his cup of suffering and sacrifice as well. In short, we are called to lay down our lives for the Gospel.

Righteous people dying because of the sins of the unrighteous is nothing new. It goes back as far as Abel, who was killed because his brother's sacrifice was found lacking, and it continues to this day, in many parts of the world where Christians face the death penalty. That being said, I think it's unlikely that the call to lay down our lives means that anyone

who's reading this will one day die for the Gospel – but we are nonetheless called to lay down our lives as Jesus did.

Keep in mind that Jesus laid down his life long before he submitted to death on the cross – and he did it often. He, who should have been in Heaven, enjoying all the splendor and comforts of the throne, laid down his kingly life to live in a human body, in squalid conditions, subject to pain, fatigue and hunger. And, every day, he ministered to his disciples and to the multitudes who came to him, he laying down his life to touch, heal and restore theirs.

When we drink the cup that Jesus drank, partaking in his blood, we lay down our lives, becoming a servant of all, in order that they may be saved.

At Highway, we embrace the concept of the cross and crown: If you want to wear the crown, you have to bear the cross. Let us take up the cross daily, laying our lives down as Jesus taught.

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

(1 John 3:16)

Thanks for Praying!

You're praying and God's moving! Thank you so much! Whatever you do, please don't stop interceding for

- our Sunday morning Connection Circles (small group discipleship classes for all ages),
- next Sunday's block party outreach,
- our preparation for fall ministries, in both the church and the academy, and
- financial provision for the ministries and missionaries we support.







Then and Now: Ambria and Serenity, youth interns, with Katie, daughter of our missionaries, Roli and Amy dela Cruz

We're praying with you!

If you're on our mailing list*, you're on our prayer list! If there's anything specific that we can join you in praying about, please let us know.

We love hearing from you! Drop us a note and let us know you're out there!

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* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we won't be offended! Just call or drop us a note, and we'll remove you. (We'll still keep you on our prayer list!)

If you'd rather receive this letter via e-mail, please let us know!

Did you know?

Our current membership of about two dozen people supports about four dozen missionaries per month! Yes, that works out to about two missionaries each. Thanks so much to those of you who pitch in to help with this effort, both in prayer and in giving! We would love to add even more missionaries, as God provides.

“This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.” (II Corinthians 9:12)

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<https://HighwayTabernacle.org> ♦ <https://ResLife.AG> ♦ Sunday services at Noon: <https://ResLife.stream>

