

Why is the cross the symbol of Christianity?



(GALATIANS 2:20)

1. THE PROBLEM

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23).

- Pollution of sin (Mark 7:20–23)
- Power of sin (John 8:34)
- Penalty for sin (Romans 6:23)
- Partition of sin (Isaiah 59:2)

2. THE SOLUTION

 "The self-substitution of God" (1 Peter 2:24) Agony of the cross (Isaiah 53:6)					

3. THE RESULT

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THE	cross	SHOWS	

- You are infinitely valuable to God.
- Jesus is the supreme example of love. (John 15:13)
- God is not aloof from suffering.
- The powers of evil have been defeated: the resurrection wasn't the reversal of a defeat; it was the manifestation of a victory.
- The partition has been removed (2 Corinthians 5:19)
 - Reconciliation with God and in other relationships
- The penalty has been paid
 - Justified ("Just-as-if-I'd never sinned")
- The power of sin has been broken
 - "If the Son sets you free, you are truly free." (John 8:36, NLT)

- When you are forgiven, you want to forgive.

- The pollution has been removed
 - "... the blood of Jesus, ... purifies us from all sin." (1 John 1:7)

RECOMMENDED READING The Cross of Christ John Stott Why Does God Allow Suffering? Nicky Gumbel Unreachable **Darrell Tunningley** Mud, Sweat and Tears Bear Grylls Why Jesus? Nicky Gumbel The Hiding Place Corrie Ten Boom