

The first century cross

- Today, the cross often symbolizes "hope", "faith", "sacrifice".
- In the first century, however, the cross had a very different – NEGATIVE – meaning.
 - For criminal slaves.
 - Enemies of the state.
 - Torturous, long-lasting!

Humiliation

Guilt

Death

Bible Verse

Bible Verse

Bible Verse

Pre-Jesus Image

Humility

Phil. 2:8

Justification

Rom. 5:18

Life

1 Cor. 1:17-18

"Christian" Image Evolving

Followers Taught to Bear Their Cross

- Matt. 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must *deny himself*, and take up his cross and follow Me."
- Luke 14:27 And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

Bearing our own crosses

- We count all things as loss or rubbish.
 Phil. 3:7-11
- This is what the rich young ruler needed to do but didn't. Mk. 10:17-22

Matthew 10:37-38

Relationships?

Activities?

Things?

...that keep us from following Jesus?

