

*"He who controls the present,
controls the future
and
he who controls the past
controls the present."*

*Our hope is deeply
embedded in*

HiStory

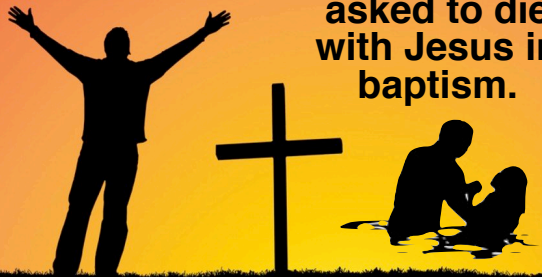
***Biblical
Christianity rises
and falls on:***

Historical Events

- ✓ The Crucifixion
- ✓ The Resurrection
- ✓ it's not about "DO"
- ✓ it's not about "DONE"

**Christ is unique in that he came
for the purpose of dying.**

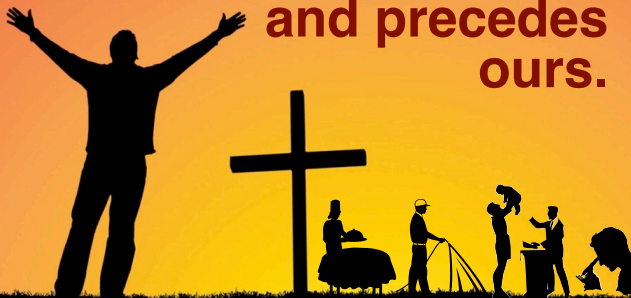
**Christians are
asked to die
with Jesus in
baptism.**



**Christians call
Jesus "Lord God" and
celebrate his
death**



Christian worship
**follows God's work
and precedes
ours.**



The distinctiveness of the Christian Gospel

1 Corinthians 15

"¹ Now I make known to you, brethren, **the gospel which I preached to you**, which also you received, in which also you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you as **of first importance** what I also received, that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that **He was raised** on the third day according to the Scriptures,"

Galatians 5:14

“But may it never be that I should boast, except in the **cross of our Lord Jesus Christ**, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”

1 Corinthians 1:18

“For the **word of the cross** is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

**The great symbols of the faith
are NOT**



The Law



The towel and basin



A king's crown

**reminding us of the life of
Jesus**

**The great symbols of the faith
ARE**



The Cross



The Lord's Supper



Baptism

**reminding us of the death and
resurrection of Jesus**

**The emphasis
of the Gospels**

**The Passion and
Resurrection**



Mark 14

“12 And on the first day of **Unleavened Bread**, when the Passover lamb was being sacrificed, . . . 16 And the disciples went out, and came to the city, and found it just as He had told them; and they prepared the **Passover**.”

✓ **Harmonizing** the Gospel accounts with respect to the day of Jesus' crucifixion is not critical to its meaning.



**The Jewish
Passover**



“17 And when it was evening He came with the twelve. 18 And as they were reclining at the table and eating, Jesus said, “Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me - one who is eating with Me.” 19 They began to be grieved and to say to Him one by one, “Surely not I?” 20 And He said to them, “It is one of the twelve, one who dips with Me in the bowl. 21 “For the Son of Man is to go, just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born.”

- ✓ Jesus' death is made necessary by **our sin**, facilitated by **the Jews**, executed by the **Romans** and decreed by **God**.



“22 And while they were eating, He took some bread, and after a blessing He broke it; and gave it to them, and said, “Take it; this is My body.” 23 And when He had taken a cup, and given thanks, He gave it to them; and they all drank from it. 24 And He said to them, “This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. 25 Truly I say to you, I shall never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.” 26 And after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.”

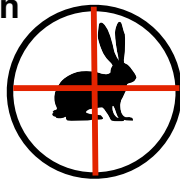
- ✓ Sacrament or memorial?



1 Corinthians 5:7-8

“7 Clean out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For **Christ our Passover** also has been sacrificed. 8 Let us therefore celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”

- ✓ The removal of all leaven (defilement) pictured the new holy **identity** of God's chosen and redeemed people.



Israel's identity



Law

Land

1 Corinthians 11

“23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, “This is My body, which is for you; do this in **remembrance** of Me.” 25 In the same way He took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in **remembrance** of Me.”

- ✓ Our eyes are always drawn back to an event in history that marks us.
- ✓ He gave himself **FOR** us.
- ✓ He **INSTALLS** his life in ours.



1 Corinthians 11

“26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you **proclaim** the Lord's death until He comes.”

- ✓ We are to remind ourselves and each other often of what was **DONE** for us.
- ✓ Our Gospel message to the world is the proclamation of an event in history.



1 Corinthians 11

“²⁷ Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. ²⁸ But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself, if he does not judge the body rightly. ³⁰ For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. ³¹ But if we judged ourselves rightly, we should not be judged. ³² But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord in order that we may not be condemned along with the world.”

- ✓ If we are not “under his blood” we are condemned along with the world.
- ✓ When we lose sight of this fact we are disciplined so as to not fall away.

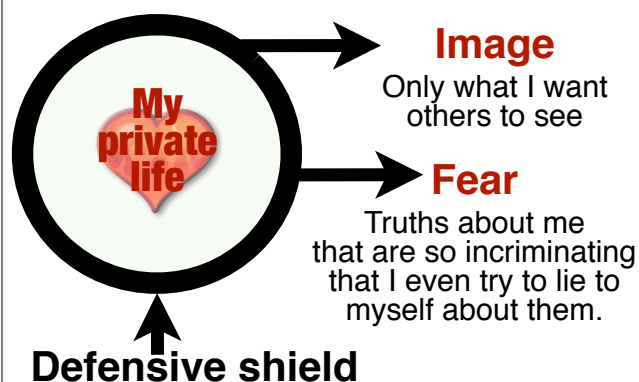
1 Corinthians 11

“²⁰ Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord’s Supper, ²¹ for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk. ²² What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God, and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise you. . . . ³³ So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. ³⁴ If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that you may not come together for judgment. And the remaining matters I shall arrange when I come.”

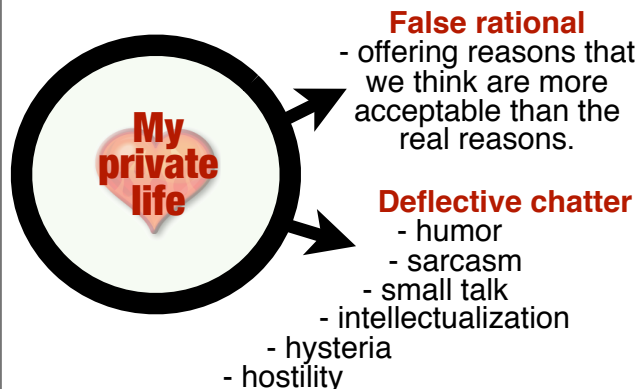
- ✓ If we do not find our identity in Christ we live for ourselves only.

I D
(Identity)
becomes
Image defense

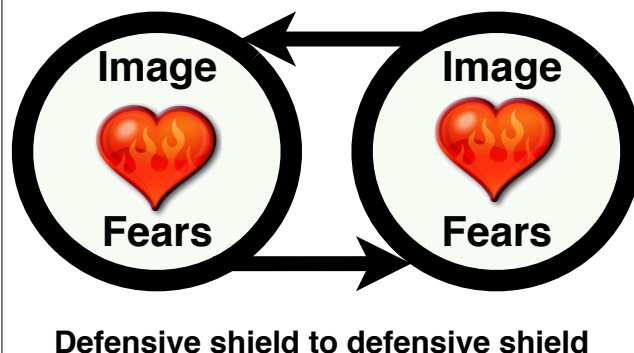
We too often project a **false front**.

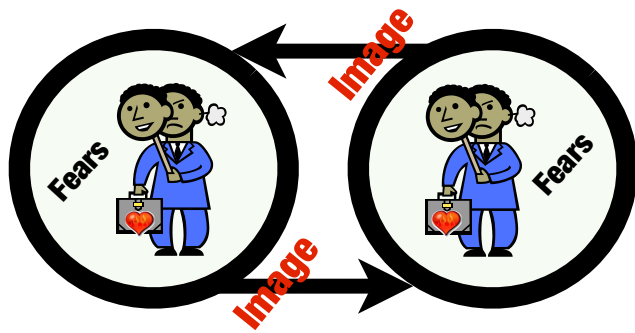


Signs of “**shield**” talk

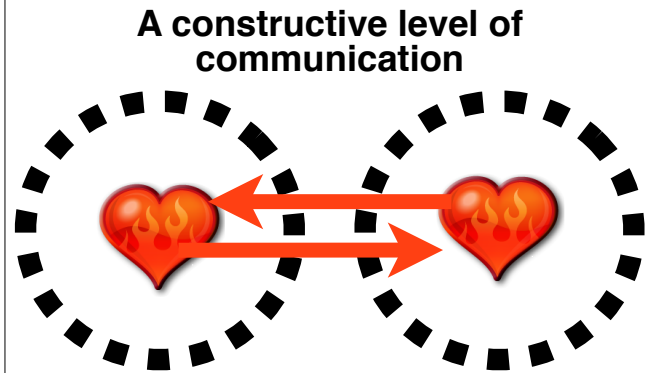


A shallow level of communication

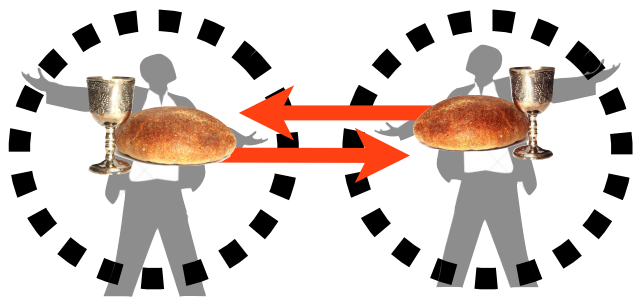




When my image and fears relate
to your image and fears we may feel safe but
we are not connecting.



Heart to Heart



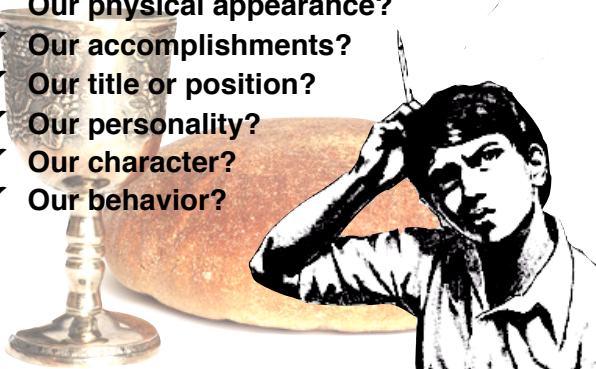
Connecting is safe only when we
find our identity in Christ.
Don't just communicate with your heart
but from your heart.

**Example
of Jesus being IN but not OF
the world.**

**Disciples who find their
unique identity in the
Cross of Christ are free
to love one another.**

What defines our identity?

- ✓ Our race, ethnicity or nationality?
- ✓ Our physical appearance?
- ✓ Our accomplishments?
- ✓ Our title or position?
- ✓ Our personality?
- ✓ Our character?
- ✓ Our behavior?



Implications

- ✓ How do we see ourselves when the world decorates our name for what we have done?
- ✓ How do we see ourselves when the world shames us for what we have done?
- ✓ How do we see and treat others when they have been decorated or shamed?
- ✓ Are we free from protective strategies to give ourselves in service to others?
- ✓ What do we see as our message of good news to this world?