

Living A Full Christian Life

The cross is a symbol of what Jesus Christ, the perfect man and our perfect example, did for God, His Father, and for us. Through love and respect for the Father, Jesus obeyed His Father's will and plan for Him. Because of His love for us, he devoted His life to people and even died for us (to pay for our sin debt and to allow us to enjoy an eternal life in His Kingdom).

Just as the cross has two parts, our life should have two main aspects to it. Just as the Vertical portion is anchored, or rooted, into the solid ground, our spiritual life should be anchored to God and rooted in His Word. Just as it reaches up to the Physical heaven, we are to constantly reach up to the Spiritual heaven. Just as the Horizontal portion reaches out to others, we are to reach out to others too. We are to fellowship with other believers and support each other; we are to share our testimony and witness to non-believers; and we are to provide service to those in need.

Below is a comparative view of the Vertical & Horizontal aspects of the Cross to the two main aspects of a Full Christian Life. When Jesus was asked "... which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" He replied "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, and with all your soul, this is the first and greatest commandment, and the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt.22:36-40).

While many churches emphasis the vertical aspect of loving God, other churches are better at the horizontal aspect of loving people. We need to learn to do both. So look at the lists below and see how you and your church are doing in these two areas.

VERTICAL CHRISTIANITY

- 1) Building a Relationship with God
- 2) Spiritual Relationships
- 3) Loving and Respecting God
- 4) Worship of God
- 5) Discipleship – Praying & Studying God's Word
- 6) Knowing & Understanding Jesus yourself
- 7) Follow Me (Jesus)

HORIZONTAL CHRISTIANITY

- 1) Building a Relationship with People
- 2) Physical Relationships
- 3) Loving and Respecting Others
- 4) Working for God
- 5) Ministry – Fellowship, Witness and Serve Others
- 6) Making Jesus known to & Understood by others
- 7) Feed My (Jesus') Sheep