

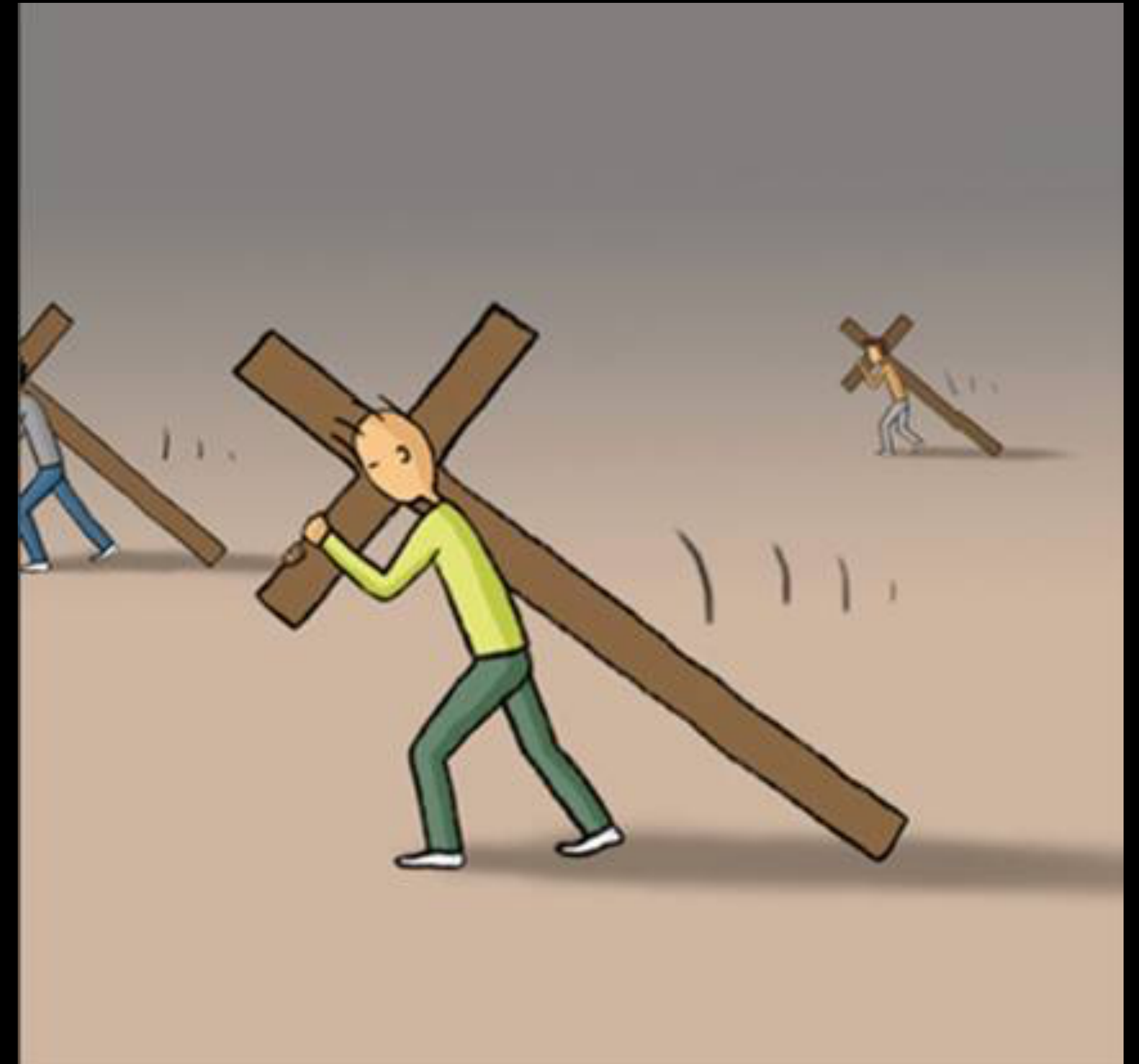


**Restoring Things In 2018 Series**

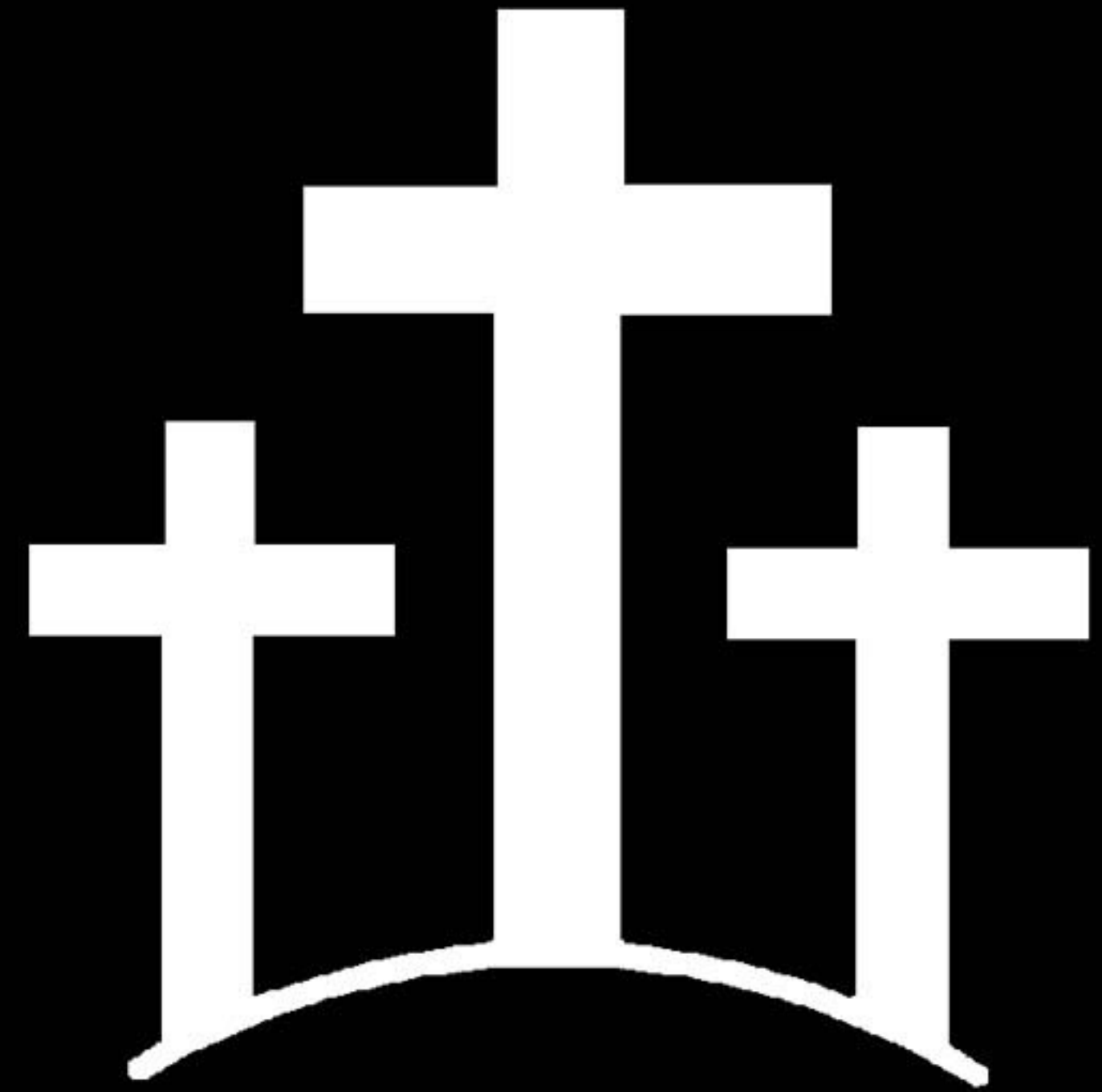
# **Crosses**

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- **In order to truly follow Christ we must deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him. These must be done in the order that the scripture gives them in. *Luke 9:23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.***
- **Self-denial means to forget about yourself and what you desire, for what He desires for you. This is the first step in following Christ. *Psa. 143:10 Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.***
- **Christ's path must be the only path that you follow, but this cannot be done without self-denial. *1Pet. 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:***



- **Jesus did not sin, but in order to pay the penalty for our sins, He took up His cross. His cross was not just a physical wooden object, but it was the burden of carrying our sins to His own death. *2Cor. 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.***
- **Though He committed no sin, Christ accepted responsibility for the redemption of the sins of mankind. Because of His love for us, He decided to give His life to pay for our sins. If we accept this truth and follow after His truth, we can be redeemed. *Is. 45:7 I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.***
- **The cross of calvary was essentially an example of how we should consider what our behavior does to others and how, by carrying our own cross, we can help others find redemption instead of turmoil. *Gal. 6:5 For every man shall bear his own burden.***



- **Accepting responsibility for our errors and past sins is taking up our cross! When we can accept the blame for not doing what we should have done, then we can be forgiven and others can forgive us. *Prov. 28:13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.***
- **After self-denial we must survey ourselves and realize the pain that we have caused others. This realization should bring us to repentance and birth a desire to do better and truly follow after Christ. *2Cor. 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?***
- **We do not wallow in self-pity or live in shame for our past errors once Christ forgives us, however, we are responsible for living with the things we cannot change. *Matt. 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.***



**Taking up a cross is painful and it can be very tough to deal with, but since we are new creations, we must not ignore our responsibilities and place blame on others for the issues we have created. Though we may have been ignorant, selfish or just plain hardheaded, we must admit our wrong and accept the issues that we caused ourselves and others. There is no one to blame for a cross other than ourselves. Jesus did not blame anyone in any of His sermons or teachings. He did not tell His disciples, “it’s your fault that I have to die for your sins”. Christ is our example. He took up His cross and did not say a word according to the Bible. He even prayed that God would forgive them for crucifying Him!**

**How can we say that our issues or bad circumstances are the fault of others, when we know we ourselves have faults. Learning to accept responsibility for your issues and admitting that you made a bad choice is the first step in following Christ. Making the best of dysfunction is a cross we all must bear, but if we follow Christ, we can prevent more dysfunction from occurring and He can make our burdens lighter. After all, if we are to truly follow Him, then we must follow His examples of handling blame and responsibility!**

***Rom. 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:***

***Rom. 5:2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.***

***Rom. 5:3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;***

***Rom. 5:4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:***

***Rom. 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.***