

TWO BIG QUESTIONS

THE CROSS ALLOWS US TO REMEMBER.

*Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see— such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So, he is first in everything. **For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.***

Colossians 1:15-20 (NLT)

THE CROSS ALLOWS US TO RECEIVE HIS GREAT LOVE FOR US.

When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners.** Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. **But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

Romans 5:6-8 (NLT)

RECEIVING SUCH WILD LOVE AND FORGIVENESS ALSO ALLOWS US TO FORGIVE OURSELVES.

*When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. **He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.** And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*

Colossians 2:13-15 (NIV)

We love because he first loved us.

1 John 4:19 (NIV)

THE CROSS ALLOWS US TO RECONCILE WITH OTHERS.

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Luke 23:34 (NLT)

But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

Luke 6:27-28 (NIV)