

LEA Weekly Devotion

Cross Purposes series 2020

Week of September 13, 2020

It's All in the Way You Look At It

Who walks around decorated with instruments of death?

Well, some heavy metal musicians might display tattoos of daggers, bludgeons, or super-sized Twinkies®. But dangle an electric chair from your ear or hang a guillotine around your neck (there's a sly pun in there somewhere), and most sensible people would recoil—at least in the recesses of their minds. Those who wear such things might likely think themselves avant-garde or rebellious or maybe have no idea they're decking themselves with boughs of folly. (Doesn't everyone?)

But consider the cross—one of the cruelest instruments of death. Lots of people wear one, perhaps holding tightly to their finger or elegantly draped around the neck or charming their wrist or—yes—even inked into their body. Such ornamentation rarely draws any kind of reaction. (Yet.) People so adorned may wear their cross as a statement of their faith. Others because it was an expensive gift from someone who loves them. And still others, fooled by their own and the world's folly, have no idea that they are decking themselves with anything other than baubles and bangles.

The cross as an object insinuates cross purposes. The original purpose of the cross undoubtedly struck terror in the hearts of all except the executioners and maybe those who were victims of the accused and thusly sentenced. One fewer outlaw on the street the better!

The cross that today sits atop steeples and hangs on walls and signed as a blessing has a mercifully different reputation. As you gaze upon one, do you ever imagine yourself nailed to it? (Talk about recoil!) Or do you thank and praise Jesus for hanging there in your place? And do you thank God that the cross, like the tomb, is empty? And how about deep gratitude to the faith-delivering and sustaining Holy Spirit, who empowers you to see it as a gift from Someone who loves you rather than merely a bough of folly?

Scripture says, “For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Cor. 1:18).

It's all in The Way that you look at it.

Read on... [1 Corinthians 1:18–31](#). And [give it an eye and ear](#) too.

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