

# Galatians 2:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

## Analysis

**I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.** The perfect passive Christō synestaurōmai (Χριστῷ συνεσταύρωμαι, "I have been and remain crucified with Christ") describes completed action with ongoing results—Paul's co-crucifixion with Christ is historical fact (at conversion) with present reality. The prefix syn- (σύν, "with, together") indicates union; stauroō (σταυρώ, "to crucify") speaks of death to the old self.

The paradox continues: zō de ouketi egō, zē de en emoi Christos (ζῶ δὲ οὐκέτι ἔγώ, ζῆ δὲ ἐν ἐμοὶ Χριστός, "I live, yet no longer I, but Christ lives in me"). The present tense zō (ζῶ, "I live") affirms existence, immediately qualified by ouketi egō (οὐκέτι ἔγώ, "no longer I")—the self-dependent, law-trusting ego is dead. Instead, Christos lives en emoi (ἐν ἐμοὶ, "in me")—indwelling presence, not mere influence. Ho de nyn zō en sarki (ὁ δὲ νῦν ζῶ ἐν σαρκὶ, "what I now live in flesh") acknowledges continuing bodily existence, but powered differently: en pistei zō tē tou hyiou tou theou (ἐν πίστει ζῶ τῇ τοῦ νίοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ, "I live by faith in the Son of God").

The climax: tou agapēsantos me kai paradontos heauton hyper emou (τοῦ ἀγαπήσαντός με καὶ παραδόντος ἑαυτὸν ὑπὲρ ἐμοῦ, "who loved me and gave

himself for me"). The aorist participles mark decisive historical action—Christ's love and self-giving on the cross. The intensely personal me and emou ("me") individualizes Christ's universal atonement—He died for Paul specifically, personally, intentionally.

## Historical Context

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This verse became the watchword of the Reformation and every subsequent spiritual awakening. Luther called it "the life of my soul." It captures the mystery of union with Christ: believers are so identified with Christ that His death becomes theirs (ending self-righteous striving) and His life becomes theirs (empowering holy living). This isn't mystical absorption into deity but covenant union where Christ's legal status and spiritual life are shared with those who trust Him.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. What would change in your daily life if you truly lived from the reality that you've been crucified with Christ?
2. How does personalizing Christ's love ("loved me, gave Himself for me") transform generic doctrine into life-altering truth?
3. In what areas are you still living by the ego ("I") rather than by faith in Christ who lives in you?

## Interlinear Text

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Χριστός· συνεσταύρωμαι ζῶ δὲ οὐκέτι ἐγώ ζῶ δὲ ἐν  
Christ I am crucified I and not I I and by  
G5547 G4957 G2198 G1161 G3765 G1473 G2198 G1161 G1722

ἐμοὶ Χριστός· ὁ δὲ νῦν ζῶ ἐν σαρκὶ ἐν  
me Christ the life which and now I by the flesh by  
G1698 G5547 G3739 G1161 G3568 G2198 G1722 G4561 G1722

πίστει ζῶ τοῦ τοῦ νίοῦ τοῦ θεοῦ τοῦ ἀγαπήσαντός  
the faith I who who of the Son who of God who loved  
G4102 G2198 G3588 G3588 G5207 G3588 G2316 G3588 G25

με καὶ παραδόντος ἐαυτὸν ὑπὲρ ἐμοῦ  
me and gave himself for me  
G3165 G2532 G3860 G1438 G5228 G1700

## Additional Cross-References

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**Galatians 5:24** (Cross): And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

**2 Corinthians 5:15** (Parallel theme): And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

**Romans 6:8** (Faith): Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

**Galatians 6:14** (Cross): But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

**2 Corinthians 13:5** (Faith): 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?

**Romans 6:13** (References God): Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

**1 Thessalonians 5:10** (Parallel theme): Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

**Galatians 1:4** (References God): Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

**Titus 2:14** (Parallel theme): Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

**John 17:21** (Faith): That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

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