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## "Adorn Yourself"

By: Pastor Jack Hibbs

*"Then He said to them all, 'If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.'" Luke 9:23 (NKJV)*

It is safe to say that the cross, or crucifix, is the most popular piece of jewelry around the world. It adorns necks on every continent and in every culture, including Islamic nations, where public display guarantees arrest.

In Jesus' day, the cross was a horrific tool of punishment which the Roman Empire used with profound results. It was the Roman cross that loomed in the back of many a malefactor's mind knowing that, if caught, crucifixion would be the payment for the errors of his ways. Enemies of Roman were nailed to a cross and used as a public example should anyone be tempted to subvert the emperor.

Today, we buy crosses on tasteful necklaces. But how can such a wicked and terrible thing be desirable? Allow me to put a twist on the topic.

The cross is not attractive because it is shiny and smooth, but because it's harsh and rough. The cross' appeal has nothing to do with affordability because it cost the Savior His precious blood – the incalculable price of sin. Its beauty isn't glittery gold or silver but its blood-stained wood.

It is not the wearing of the cross that adorns you; it's the wearing of Jesus Christ and His message. As Christians, we are to display Jesus and announce Jesus everywhere we go, knowing that in our association with Him, mockery and rejection for His sake will be the cross we bear.

Believer, will you identify with Christ's sacrifice for you and unashamedly represent Him by the way you live? If so, now is the time to shed rude and hard-hearted religiosity and be known as a real, loving, honest, and uncompromising follower of Jesus Christ.

Now is the time to take your love for Christ to the world, cross and all!

*Pastor Jack Hibbs is the senior pastor at Calvary Chapel in Chino Hills, CA. His ministry, which includes "Real Life with Jack Hibbs", is seen via YouTube and on the app named for the ministry. The church's website is [www.Calvarycch.org](http://www.Calvarycch.org).*

### Men of Shades Devotional

How about writing one devotion to share with the Men of Shades. Share your thoughts on a favorite Bible verse, a story from your life with an application from Scripture, or share a devotion written by a favorite writer that was particularly meaningful to you. Follow the parameters below and then send it to Steve Grissett at [s\\_grissett@yahoo.com](mailto:s_grissett@yahoo.com).

- Choose a favorite verse or verses (2 or 3).
- Write a short devotion of 200 to 300 words max.
- Add a title.
- Add one thought-provoking or reflective question at the end.
- Include a one or two sentence introduction of yourself.

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### Fall Wednesday Night Kickoff

Let's kick off our Wednesday night activities this fall with a big celebration! Invite your friends and neighbors to join us on August 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm around the Shades Pavilion and South Parking lot for food, games, activities, and fellowship as we re-launch our Wednesday night schedule. Stay tuned for more details.

[Learn More](#)

### Man Church

Our next Man Church is Sunday, August 29, and our guest speaker will be Dr. Robert, Smith, Jr. Dr. Smith is the Charles T. Carter Chair of Divinity at Samford's Beeson Divinity School. Dr. Smith pastored in Cincinnati for 20 years, and currently teaches preaching at Beeson. He has spoken at over 135 universities, colleges and seminaries across the globe. Mark your calendar and come hear a message of challenge and inspiration from Dr. Robert Smith, Jr. at Man Church on August 29 at 6:00pm.

[Learn More](#)

For more info on how to get involved with Men of Shades, visit [www.shades.org/men](http://www.shades.org/men)

You are receiving this weekly devotion because you signed up for the Men of Shades email list. If you wish to unsubscribe from this list, simply send an email with the subject "unsubscribe" to [menofshades@shades.org](mailto:menofshades@shades.org)

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