

A Cross With Wheels

A number of years ago, I was driving through Charleston, WV and I saw a local religious personality carrying a cross along the side of the road. He was attempting to make people think of the great sacrifice of Christ. However, as I drove past this man, I noticed that his cross had wheels.

Then again, just this past weekend, while I was driving in Bowling Green, I saw two men carrying crosses on the same of the road, followed by a crowd of about 30 or 40 people. As I passed these two men, I looked at the crosses they were carrying and sure enough, they too both had wheels.

I understand why they placed wheels on these crosses. There's the issue of durability, damage to the cross, keeping the cross relatively clean, but the bottom line is convenience! But that's where the irony and the impetus for this article arises. You see, there's nothing convenient about a cross! In fact, it was designed to be an inconvenient, excruciating, and humiliating means to kill someone. Convenient crosses? They don't exist...or at least shouldn't.

If I can jump from what I saw this past weekend to a spiritual application, would say that from the looks of things, I believe that many people have attempted to put "wheels on their cross." Remember that Jesus said that in order to be one of his disciples, one must be willing to deny himself, take up a cross daily, and follow him (Luke 9:23). From what I've witnessed in some, rather than denying self, and bearing one's cross daily, some have attempted to accessorize their cross. Unwilling to reject Christ completely, they attempt to fashion a cross of convenience - crosses with wheels.

Our society has made an icon out of the cross. We wear them around our neck, they dangle from our ears, and they are even tattooed on our bodies. I wonder therefore if many have not failed to comprehend the significance of the cross. The cross represents selflessness, sacrifice, obedience, dedication, and self-denial. Do you think most people realize that?

The cross is more than a piece of jewelry or a trinket, and they certainly don't have wheels. There's nothing convenient about a cross.

My advice to those who wish to gain public attention by carrying a cross...take off the wheels! Those wheels are incongruous with the message of the cross. I for one, noticed the wheels, not the cross. Don't lessen the burden of the cross by accessorizing it with something that makes it convenient.

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