

April 9, 2026

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2 Dreadnought Rd
Oxford Falls NSW
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Unfinished Business

Series Connect Notes.

Dear Leaders, we have introduced consistent Go Goals each series to help provide a simple missional framework you and your cg members can easily adopt into their walk with the Lord. These Go Goals are:

1. **Generosity** (Ideas include: shout someone coffee or lunch, cook a meal, create a hamper etc.)
2. **Prayer** (Praying for someone. For example, asking, "Is there anything you need prayer for?")
3. **Invitation** (Inviting someone to church. For example, "Would you like to come to church with me?")

Please discuss these Go Goals each cg with your members. We know as you discuss stories of people putting these goals into action, it will build a great sense of being on mission.

Please see the Announcements below to help your cg members take Next Steps and know what's coming up.

Announcements:

Water Baptisms	<i>We're celebrating baptisms on Sunday 12th April across all our locations. Baptism is a powerful public declaration of faith. If someone in your connect group is ready to take this step, they can register using this link: https://c3syd.ucareapp.com/forms/24/embed</i>
Online Prayer	<i>If someone in your connect group can't make it to a face-to-face prayer meeting, they are welcome to join our Online Prayer Meeting from 6.30pm - 7.00pm. This is a great alternative! Here's the link to join or share: https://c3syd.church/prayer/</i>
Foundations	<i>Online Foundations is starting on 29th April. If someone in your connect group recently said yes to Jesus or are just starting in their faith journey, this is for them. It's a space to learn the basics of following Jesus and start building strong foundations for life.</i>
Freedom Ministry	<i>Freedom Ministry is Holy Spirit directed and empowered prayer ministry aimed to bring healing to an individual spirit, soul and body.</i>

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	<p><i>If you or anyone in your cg is interested in accessing this ministry, please fill in the form below and our team will be in touch: https://c3syd.info/freedom</i></p>
Night Classes	<p><i>We have the second term of Night Class kicking off on the 29th of April. This is a great opportunity as a connect leader to continue going deeper in areas of biblical & theological studies to equip you to disciple those you lead.</i></p> <p><i>These are run on Wednesday Nights from 7:30-9:30pm. For more information on night classes check out the links below:</i></p> <p><i>For info about Night Class - https://c3syd.church/internship/</i></p> <p><i>To directly enrol for Term 2 - https://c3syd.ucareapp.com/events/11/register</i></p>
Going Deeper	<p><i>Want to go deeper in the current preaching series, which unpacks what we have in Christ because of Easter? C3 College is giving all C3SYD members an 80% discount on Ps Phil Pringle's course Identity in Christ. It is only \$10! If you have connect group members who want to go deeper, please give them this link.</i></p> <p><i>https://c3college.thinkific.com/enroll/991107?price_id=1094235&coupon=C3SYDIdentityinChrist</i></p>

Message Series Overview

Message Series Title:	Unfinished Business
Message Series Scriptures:	Galatians 2:20
Series Purpose:	The big point of this whole series is to directly connect Easter to lived discipleship. We're living with "unfinished business." Not in Christ's work, but in our sanctification. Easter wasn't the end of the story; it was the beginning of a new way to live.'
Weekly Overview:	<p>Week 1 - Unfinished Business Intro</p> <p>Week 2 - The Business of Identity</p> <p>Week 3 - The Business of Love</p> <p>Week 4 - The Business of Peace</p>

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Week 1: Connect week notes

Connect Week Notes	Week 1
Message Title:	Unfinished Business Intro
Message Date:	Sunday 12 th April 2026
Key scriptures for this week:	Galatians 2:20-21
Key point for this week:	The foundation is finished, but the formation is ongoing. The cross closed one chapter of your life and opened another. We are now responsible for living the new one.
Connect Group Message:	
<p>The Epistle to the Galatians (Thaumazō letter, pg 7) was written by the Apostle Paul to churches in Galatia being influenced by Judaizers. Basically, they were teachers insisting newly integrated Gentile believers must adopt aspects of Torah (Law) observance (especially circumcision) to belong fully to God's covenant family.</p> <p>Paul's argument in short:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justification is by grace through faith in Christ. • To return to law-based righteousness is to deny the sufficiency of the cross. • Union with Christ redefines identity more fundamentally than ethnic, moral, or religious markers. <p>Galatians 2:20 sits in Paul's confrontation with Peter (2:11-14). The issue was table fellowship, who we eat with reveals what we believe about the gospel. That's crucial for our series. The cross creates a new social reality. (Refer to Nathan Ross' 2025 Galatians series for deeper context).</p> <p>Theological Commentary</p> <p>"I have been crucified with Christ"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perfect tense in Greek - a <i>completed</i> act with ongoing effects. • Not metaphorical inspiration but participatory union. • The old "self" under law, sin, and self-justification has been executed. <p>"I no longer live, but Christ lives in me"</p>	

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- This is not loss of personality, but relocation of our source.
- Our identity shifts from a self-generated righteousness to one that has the indwelling Christ. We're given the right, John says, to become sons & daughters of God.

"The life I now live in the body, I live by faith..."

- Discipleship, like crucifixion - is not mystical escapism, it's through the difficult trials that make us more like Jesus.
- Discipleship is embodied, relational, ordinary life reshaped by trust in the Son of God.

"If righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing"

- Any system of self-justification empties the cross of power.
- Grace is not an accessory; it is the foundation.

Romans 6:3-4 – "Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

Baptism = participation in death and resurrection.

Salvation is not merely legal; it is participatory and transformative.

2 Corinthians 5:17 – "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:^[a] The old has gone, the new is here!"

New creation language = eschatology breaking into the present. ([NT Wright](#))

The resurrection is not just future hope; it is present identity.

1. The Cross Ends the Old Self

Not self-improvement, but an execution. [Bonhoeffer quote](#) "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die." Christianity is not behaviour management or worldview transmission, but death and resurrection.

Read more on this theme [here](#) from Calvinist Pentecostal theologian, James KA Smith.

2. The Cross (Easter) Establishes a New Foundation

Christ is not an add-on; He is the base structure. **1 Corinthians 3:11** - For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

3. The Cross Rewrites Our Identity (individually & corporately)

Before you are a Christian, we are the church. You are not defined by performance, past, shame, success, or tribe. You are defined by union with the crucified and risen Son – in the power of the Spirit.

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4. The Cross Reorders Relationships

If I died with Christ:

- I no longer defend my ego at all costs.
- I no longer weaponise offence.
- I no longer build community on superiority.

5. The Cross Forms Allegiance, Not Just Belief

Cultural assumption challenged: Christianity is not a belief system but a transforming allegiance to a living King.

Salvation & Next Step

- Clear gospel call: justification by grace through faith
- Invitation to water baptism as public identification with Christ's death and resurrection
- Emphasis: baptism is not self-improvement but surrender and new life

Connect Group Discussion Questions:

Please see the CG Discussion Questions below related to the message for the Connect Weeks this month. Remember, please only choose the questions that are most pertinent to your group.

1. How does the concept of being "crucified with Christ" challenge or transform the way you view yourself?
2. If Christ now lives in you, what needs to take second place to Him?
3. In what areas of your life do you notice the tension between trying to become better by willpower alone versus being transformed by participation in Christ?
4. What does it mean to directly connect Easter to "lived discipleship"?
5. How does the resurrection of Jesus impact the way you live out your faith daily?
6. Where do you need Christ's "newness of life" the most right now—what would change if your daily choices were actually shaped by Christ's mind and example?
7. If discipleship is crucifixion with Christ, not about mystical escapism but enduring trials that make us more like Jesus, how do you understand suffering in light of this perspective on discipleship?
8. What season of the Christian journey are you in, and what kind of growth do you need rather than discouragement?
9. If "the ego that must win every argument, defend every slight, dominate every space" has been crucified with Christ, in what areas has the cross reshaped your natural tendencies toward self-interest and pride?

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10. How have you experienced the cross as something that “crucifies” your old self—not just forgives your past—especially when habits, fears, or resentments rise again?
11. How can you practically demonstrate Christ living in you, this week, to the people around you?
12. Please discuss and pray about our *Go Goals* as a cg.

Week 3: Connect week notes

Connect Week Notes	Week 3
Message Title:	The Business of Love
Message Date:	Sunday 26 th April 2026
Key Scriptures for this week:	John 15:13 (NIV), Philippians 2:5–8 (NIV) & Galatians 2:20 (NIV)
Historical Context, Commentary + supporting references:	
<p>Cultural Assumption Challenged: The notion that sacrifice, service & love are cheap; that they’re easy come, easy go.</p> <p>The cross didn’t merely show us an image of love, it showed the mechanics of love. Not just the <i>what</i>, but the <i>how</i>.</p>	
Connect Group Message:	
<p>Supporting points:</p> <p>1. The Cross Redefines Love In John 15, the great verse “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life...” shows us that love isn’t mere sentimentality. Love is not intensity as Netflix might have us believe. Love is not chemistry. Love is self-giving for the good of another. St Aquinas defines love more richly like this, saying “to love is to will the good of the other”.</p> <p>The cross removes cheap definitions of love and replaces them with costly, embodied love-in-action.</p> <p>2. The Cross Reorders Power in Relationships In Philippians 2:5–8, Paul shows that Jesus did not exploit His status. He refused to turn power into a weapon. He emptied Himself. Christian love does not grasp. It yields. In</p>	

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marriage, parenting, childhood, friendships, leadership, the cross calls us to use strength for service, not control. (Ps. Alex's meekness blurb would be relevant here.)

3. The Cross Kills Self-Interest, Not Wisdom

Back to **Galatians 2:20** Paul says, "I have been crucified with Christ..." So, the ego that must win every argument, defend every slight, dominate every space, that self was crucified. But crucified self-interest does not mean:

- Tolerating abuse Enabling harm
- Trying to fix people who refuse help
- Remaining in destructive dynamics

You cannot control or repair another person's heart. Christlike love includes courage, truth, and sometimes boundaries. Sacrifice is not self-erasure. It is Spirit-led self-giving.

4. Honour Responds — It Doesn't Just Feel

G.K Chesterton once said, "The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him."

Can you imagine a soldier stepping onto a battlefield stirred with emotion, full of intensity, but he never actually steps forward to defend what he loves? All talk, no walk.

We see enough of this on social media today. It's called virtue signalling. Honour is not measured by how deeply we feel, but by how faithfully we act.

We remember sacrifice, but Christian honour goes further and asks: *What will I now do in response?*

Jesus did not simply feel love; He embodied it. He moved toward the cross. He laid down His life. And the way we honour that sacrifice is not with sentiment alone, but with imitation. The question is not "Do I feel moved?" It is "Will I live differently?"

5. The Cross Makes Love Costly Again

If you're a single person or celibate:

- **Love becomes deferred** (*"real" intimacy will begin when I marry; until then, I'll stay guarded*).
- **Independence masquerades as strength** (*self-sufficiency; no one truly knowing you; no one having authority to wound or shape you*).
- **Desire can become either indulged or suppressed but not surrendered** (*oscillating between private compromise and private shame*).

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- **Loneliness can turn into isolation** (*attending church but not being woven into family*).

If you're under 30 living in 2026:

- **Love is treated as disposable** (*swipe culture; casual intimacy; always keeping options open*).
- **People are treated as replaceable** (*ghosting; one-night encounters; "there's always someone else"*).
- **Commitment is treated as provisional** (*serial cohabitation; exit-ready relationships; defining love without covenant*).

If you're over 30 living in 2026:

- **Love can quietly erode** (*affairs; emotional withdrawal; staying physically present but relationally absent*).
- **People can become negotiable** (*quietly checking out; distancing from family when it's costly*).
- **Commitment can become conditional** (*midlife resets; parallel lives under one roof; "we've just grown apart"*).

The cross says: Love perseveres. Love absorbs. Love endures. Love chooses the long road. Not romantic nationalism. Not emotional hype. Costly, embodied, disciplined love.

Connect Group Discussion Questions:

Please see the CG Discussion Questions below related to the message for the Connect Weeks this month. Remember, please only choose the questions that are most pertinent to your group.

1. In what ways have you personally experienced transformation in your relationships because of the gospel?
2. If the cross "puts an end" to the vicious cycle of sin/self-interest, what specific "cycle" (in speech, conflict, grudges, retaliation) is most tempting in your circles?
3. How does the example of Jesus redefine love and how we treat people, compared to what the world says?
4. Is there a specific relationship where you feel personally called to do things God's way?
5. Boundaries are part of faithful love, and love does not require toleration of harm. Share if you are comfortable about any relationships that require healthy boundaries to love others.
6. How does the idea of being adopted into God's family change the way you view your relationship with God and others in the Church?
7. Disciples are formed to think, judge, and live "as He lived" within the Church (God's family). Where do you most resist being shaped by church community?

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8. The Bible redefines love as self-giving for the good of others. How can we live out this costly, embodied love in our everyday relationships and interactions?
9. Please discuss and pray about our *Go Goals* as a cg.