The cross is an ESSENTIAL element in the Christian faith.

1 Corinthians 2:2 "For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." (NIV)

Galatians 6:14 "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." (NIV)

THE CROSS: ANGER MANAGEMENT

1. God is a God of WRATH.

Romans 1:18-19 "18 The **wrath of God** is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them." (NIV)

Nahum 1:2-8 "2 The Lord is a jealous and avenging God; the Lord takes vengeance and is filled with wrath. The Lord takes vengeance on His foes and maintains His wrath against His enemies. 3 The Lord is slow to anger but great in power; the Lord will not leave the guilty unpunished. His way is in the whirlwind and the storm, and clouds are the dust of His feet. 4 He rebukes the sea and dries it up; He makes all the rivers run dry. Bashan and Carmel wither and the blossoms of Lebanon fade. 5 The mountains quake before Him and the hills melt away. The earth trembles at His presence, the world and all who live in it. 6 Who can withstand His indignation? Who can endure His fierce anger? His wrath is poured out like fire; the rocks are shattered before Him. 7 The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him, 8 but with an overwhelming flood He will make an end of Nineveh; He will pursue His foes into darkness." (NIV)

2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 "6 God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you 7 and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with His powerful angels. 8 He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of

the Lord and from the glory of His might [10] on the day He comes to be glorified in His holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed …" (NIV)

2. God's wrath is His RIGHTEOUS response to sin.

Deuteronomy 6:14-15 "[14] Do not follow other gods, the gods of the people around you; [15] for the Lord your God, who is among you, is a jealous God and His anger will burn against you, and He will destroy you from the face of the land." (NIV)

Jeremiah 44:4-6 "[4] Again and again I sent my servants the prophets, who said, 'Do not do this detestable thing that I hate!' [5] But they did not listen or pay attention; they did not turn from their wickedness or stop burning incense to other gods. [6] Therefore, my fierce anger was poured out; it raged against the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem and made them the desolate ruins they are today." (NIV)

3. God cannot and does not TOLERATE Sin. In fact, He HATES it, and people will suffer the consequences because of it.

Zechariah 8:17 "… do not plot evil against each other, and do not love to swear falsely. I **hate** all this," declares the Lord." (NIV)

Psalm 11:5-7 "[5] The Lord examines the righteous, but the wicked, those who love violence, He **hates** with a passion. [6] On the wicked He will rain fiery coals and burning sulfur; a scorching wind will be their lot. [7] For the Lord is righteous, He loves justice, the upright will see His face." (NIV)

Hosea 9:15 "Because of all their wickedness in Gilgal, I **hated** them there. Because of their sinful deeds, I will drive them out of my house. I will no longer love them …" (NIV)

Genesis 3:4-5 "[4] You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. [5] For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (NIV)

Ephesians 5:5-7 "[5] For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. [6] Let no one deceive you with empty

words, for because of such things **God's wrath** comes on those who are disobedient. [7] Therefore do not be partners with them." (NIV)

4. God is also a God of Love, and He sent Jesus to DEAL WITH His anger towards sin by providing a sacrifice that satisfy the demands of sin.

Micah 7:18-19 "[18] Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of His inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. [19] You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea." (NIV)

Romans 3:23-25 "[23] for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [24] and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [25] whom God put forward as a **propitiation** by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins." (ESV)

CrossWord: **Propitiation**—"to offer a sacrifice to APPEASE anger"

Romans 3:25 "For God sent Christ Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and **to end all God's anger against us**. He used Christ's blood and our faith as the means of saving us from his wrath." (LB)

1 John 4:10 "In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the **propitiation** for our sins." (ESV)

1 John 4:10 "In this act we see what real love is: it is not our love for God but his love for us when he sent his Son **to satisfy God's anger** against our sins." (LB)

Ephesians 2:3-5 "[3] All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature **deserving of wrath**. [4] But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, [5] made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved." (NIV)

BOTTOM LINE

1. FEAR God!

Proverbs 1:7 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction." (NIV)

Hebrews 10:31 "It is a dreadful thing to fall into the kinds of the living God." (NIV)

Hebrews 12:28-29 "28 … since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, 29 for our 'God is a consuming fire'." (NIV)

2. HATE sin!

Psalm 97:10 "Let those who love the Lord hate evil, for He guards the lives of His faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked." (NIV)

Romans 12:9 "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good." (NIV)

3. THANK Jesus!

1 John 2:1-2 "1 I am telling you this so that you will stay away from sin. But if you sin, there is someone to plead for you before the Father. His name is Jesus Christ, the one who is all that is good and who pleases God completely. 2 He is the one who **took God's wrath** against our sins upon himself and brought us into fellowship with God; and he is the forgiveness for our sins, and not only ours but all the world's." (LB)

1 Thessalonians 5:9 "For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ." (NIV)