

BATTLE CRY

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, a Battle Cry is a shouted word, phrase, or sound used by a body of fighters before or in battle (WAR CRY). Likewise, it can mean a slogan, catchphrase, or motto used especially to rally people to a cause or rouse people to action (RALLYING CRY).

Every few seconds, we hear a new battle cry intended to unite as many people into one group. Many times, it is merely propaganda with empty follow-through. Therefore, they are empty words that mean nothing. Other times, it is internalized deeply and followed with zealous pursuit without thinking about the true meaning or future implications, sometimes to the detriment of self and others. Either way, most battle cries are intended to manipulate the masses for the gain of a few.

Let me ask you a question in a noisy world with lots of words expressed to rally people around a particular agenda. What is your battle cry? What is the ethos that you bet your whole life on and that drives your every decision and action?

If I had to guess the apostle Paul's battle cry, I would look no further than his letter to the Philippians.

Philippians 1

21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Read a little further, and he explains that these aren't supposed to be just empty words. It's supposed to guide all of life.

Philippians 1:27

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,

Jesus tells us that life is more than what we often find ourselves groping for (Matthew 6:25). Likewise, the Hebrew writer urges his readers not to misplace their adoration and trust (Hebrews 13:5). Rallying on the wrong thing has disastrous consequences, but hoping in the Lord (making him our battle cry) is sure and steadfast (Exodus 17).

What's your battle cry?

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Jesus!

Shalom,
Ryan