

Embrace the Cross

@2012 Andy Gleiser; Ben Everson Music

Ben Everson is an evangelist as well as an accomplished musician. He is also married to my cousin, Amanda. Ben held a contest in October 2011, for aspiring poets to submit lyrics for a possible song. Though I didn't win the contest, he asked if he could have my text and put it to music. *Embrace the Cross* is our first collaboration.

If I am to be a follower of Jesus, it will actually require two crosses: Jesus' cross and my cross. **His cross is indispensable for salvation.** But to be like Jesus means, I too, will carry a cross in this life. The first verse speaks of Jesus' cross while the remaining three verses reveal how we interact with the cross that we are to bear for Him. The chorus returns our attention to Jesus and His cross. My favorite part of the song is the final phrase of the fourth verse ... *As we lay down the cross we carried for Jesus, He gives us a crown.* Then we take that crown and cast it back at His feet. We carried the cross not for the crown, but for Him.