

## **It's Still the Cross**

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*Music: Reba Snyder*

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***"For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf."***

***(2 Corinthians 5:14-15)***

From 2010-2016, our church in Indianapolis (Burge Terrace) hosted the 3G Youth Conference, standing for God's *glory, gospel, and grace*. Each year we themed the youth conference on one of the "G's" as we sought to make much of Christ. Our fifth conference (2014) returned to highlighting God's gospel.

One afternoon, I was asked to drive a van for a class field trip for Burge Terrace Christian School. After arriving at our destination, I stayed in the van while the students participated in their special event. The 3G Youth Conference was coming, and I still didn't have a conference hymn written. In the quiet of the church van, I finally had a breakthrough with what I considered a unique lyric structure. I sought to tell the passion week of Christ through short, blunt statements rather than story. I wasn't sure how that would turn out. By the end of the field trip, I had the basic idea down as well as the first stanza.

The hymn begins in the Garden of Gethsemane and continues to the resurrection, ending with a final stanza summarizing the theme of the song. My chorus declares that it is Christ's dying act of love for us that compels us to live for Him. That seems to be a common theme in my hymns. May it be the theme of my life.

Once again, Reba hit a homerun with the tune. She took my short descriptive statements and made them sing. I think you'll agree.