



PACIFIC
CROSSROADS
CHURCH

January 21, 2018

the Cruciform life

FIRST CORINTHIANS

Reflections

Compatibility is an achievement of love. It cannot be its precondition . . . How different would our relationships be if the question we asked on an early date was, “How are you crazy? I’m crazy like this,” and then understood that the real work of love is not in the falling, but in what comes after?

The great enemy of love, good relationships, good friendships, is self-righteousness. I think if somebody thinks that they’re easy to live with, they’re by definition going to be pretty hard and don’t have much of an understanding of themselves. I think there’s a certain wisdom that begins by knowing that of course you, like everyone else, are pretty difficult.

And this knowledge is shielded from us by our friends and family . . . so we’re left with a bubble of ignorance about our own natures. And often, you can be way into your 40’s before you’re starting to get a sense of, “Well, maybe some of the problem is in me.” It’s so intuitive to think that of course it’s the other person. So often we blame our lovers; we don’t blame our view of love.

Love is something we have to learn, and we can make progress with, and it’s not just an enthusiasm; it’s a skill. It requires forbearance, generosity, imagination . . . we must fiercely resist the idea that true love must mean conflict-free love, that the course of true love is smooth. It’s not. The course of true love is rocky and bumpy at the best of times.

- Alain de Botton in conversation with Krista Tippett

Sermon

Cruciform Love

Rankin Wilbourne

Scripture

1 Corinthians 13

¹ If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.


⁴ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.


¹³ So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

'Vase of Flowers' by Jan van Huysum, 1722; Oil on panel

'Cruciform' logo by Jesse Wu

 www.PacificCrossroads.org

 Pacific Crossroads

 310 551-0081

Events & News

Congregational Meeting for Pacific Crossroads' Members, Today, January 21

Elect a new class of deacons and elders. 10:30 AM at SAMOHI or 4:15 PM in Parish Hall at St. John's.

Relational Wisdom Seminar, January 27

So many of us struggle to handle our relationships with great biblical wisdom and maturity. Those who are fluent in relationships flourish at work, at home, and in interpersonal relationships.

Gain biblical skills that will lead to stronger relationships and less conflict – as well as improved team-building, better job performance, and a more credible witness for Christ.

Orphan Care: All In, February 11

Take a deep dive into 'why' and 'how' to get involved with children in the foster care system. This four-week class draws from scripture-based curriculum that is focused on the need for homes, mentors, and volunteers. 9:00 AM SAMOHI or 3:30 PM St. John's.

View and sign up for all events on our mobile app, on our website, PacificCrossroads.org/Events, or speak with someone at the 'New Here?' tent.

Ministry Resources

Pastoral Care

Our pastoral care team is here to care for you if you are in a difficult place. Email pastoralcare@pacificcrossroads.org or call our office at 310.551.0081.

Celebrate Recovery

Join together weekly with others to celebrate God's healing power in our lives. Visit PacificCrossroads.org/CelebrateRecovery.