



PACIFIC  
CROSSROADS  
CHURCH

October 22, 2017

# the Cruciform life

FIRST CORINTHIANS

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# Reflections

Seeking to “free” sexual love from its old communal restraints, we have “freed” it also from its meaning, its responsibility, and its exultation. And we have made it more dangerous. “Sexual liberation” is as much a fraud and as great a failure as the “peaceful atom.” We are now living in a sexual atmosphere so polluted and embittered that women must look on virtually any man as a potential assailant, and a man must look on virtually any woman as a potential accuser. The idea that this situation can be corrected by the courts and the police only compounds the disorder and the danger. And in the midst of this acid rainfall of predation and recrimination, we presume to teach our young people that sex can be made “safe”— by the use, inevitably, of purchased drugs and devices. What a lie! Sex was never safe, and it is less safe now than it has ever been.

What we are actually teaching the young is an illusion of thoughtless freedom and purchasable safety, which encourages them to tamper prematurely, disrespectfully, and dangerously with a great power. Just as the public economy encourages people to spend money and waste the world, so the public sexual code encourages people to be spendthrifts and squanderers of sex. The basis of true community and household economy, on the other hand, is thrift. The basis of community sexuality is respect for everything that is involved— and respect, here as everywhere, implies discipline. By their common principles of extravagance and undisciplined freedom, our public economy and our public sexuality are exploiting and spending moral capital built up by centuries of community life— exactly as industrial agriculture has been exploiting and spending the natural capital built up over thousands of years in the soil . . . Starting with economic brutality, we have arrived at sexual brutality. Those who affirm the one and deplore the other will have to explain how we might logically have arrived anywhere else.

- Wendell Berry, *Sex, Economy, Freedom and Community*

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

*'Cruciform' logo by Jesse Wu*

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# Scripture

1 Corinthians 6:9-20

<sup>9</sup> Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

<sup>12</sup> “All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. <sup>13</sup> “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food”—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. <sup>14</sup> And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. <sup>15</sup> Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! <sup>16</sup> Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.” <sup>17</sup> But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. <sup>18</sup> Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, <sup>20</sup> for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

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# Sermon

*the Cruciform life: Gospel Identity*

Rankin Wilbourne

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## Events & News

### **Community Group New Leader Training, November 4**

Praise God that more people than ever want to join a community group! However, we need new leaders to serve these folks, specifically in Downtown / K-Town and Santa Monica. Might God be calling you to lead? If so, join us for Community Group Leader Training.

### **Church-Wide Survey, Begins Next Week, October 29**

Next week, our church will begin conducting a congregation-wide survey. Your feedback will help our leaders and staff better understand our congregation and develop long-term strategies. The survey is 100% confidential.

### **Boxes of Love, Begins Next Week, October 29**

Boxes of Love is an annual campaign to provide Thanksgiving meals to families in need. We invite you to begin praying about how you, your family, or your CG might participate this year.

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

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## 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](mailto: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](http://PacificCrossroads.org/CelebrateRecovery).