



PACIFIC
CROSSROADS
CHURCH

February 4, 2018

the Cruciform life

FIRST CORINTHIANS

Reflections

Suppose that it was you who once caused hurt to someone and that the person you hurt has kept the memory of that alive for years. He has woven a tangled web of resentment against you . . . His resentment has hurt you just as it has been hurting him. He lets your hurtful act fester in his mind; you let his refusal to forgive fester in your mind.

One day a chance encounter opens the door to a possible reconciliation . . . but your own resentment is too fresh. You want the whole record laid out on the table, nothing short of a stenographer's transcription of what each said and did. The mean and painful past must be clear in everyone's head before it can be done with. Why? Why does our resentment — aimed now at the other person's resentment — have this terrible urge to force everyone to relive the past?

There is only one reason. We need to justify ourselves. We must be sure that everyone involved knows that the other person's resentments were unjustified, all out of proportion to the wrong of our original offense. It must be clear to all that we are the morally superior one.

Resentment is no minor vice. It is one of the deadliest known to man. The irony is that it always kills the spirit of the person who wields it . . . Love lets the past die. It moves people to a new beginning without settling the past . . . accounts may go unsettled . . . we do not need to keep accurate score, for we do not need to be a moral winner.

- Lewis Smedes, *Love Within Limits*, "Love is not Resentful"

Sermon

Cruciform Love: Love (III)

Rankin Wilbourne

Scripture

1 Corinthians 12:31b-13

³¹ And I will show you a still more excellent way.

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

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Events & News

IF: Gathering for Women, February 9, 10

Join us for this two-day gathering which will include live worship, live-stream content from IF: Gathering in Austin, TX, discussion sessions, refreshments, gifts, and lunch on Saturday. Scholarships available.

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.

Global Missions Info Session, February 25

This year, PCC is sending teams all over the world to support our short-term global mission partners. Learn more about upcoming trips by joining us for an info session after all three services.

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.