



PACIFIC
CROSSROADS
CHURCH

September 17, 2017

the Cruciform life

FIRST CORINTHIANS

Reflections

What is this strange and uncouth thing?

- George Herbert, *The Cross*

What does the cross of Christ— as both a historical event and a figure of Christian discourse— mean for thinking about the human being and what it means to become a self? How does the cross affect the continuity of selfhood, change the way we think about human capability and responsibility, and challenge the way we think about self-reflection and self-understanding?

- Brian Gregor, *A Philosophical Anthropology of the Cross: The Cruciform Self*

Her full nature, like that river of which Cyrus broke the strength, spent itself in channels which had no great name on the earth. But the effect of her being on those around her was incalculably diffusive: for the growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistoric acts; and that things are not so ill with you and me as they might have been is half owing to the number who lived faithfully a hidden life, and rest in unvisited tombs.

- George Eliot, *Middlemarch*

That person does not deserve to be called a theologian who looks upon the invisible things of God as though they were clearly perceptible in those things which have actually happened. He deserves to be called a theologian, however, who comprehends the visible and manifest things of God seen through suffering and the cross. A theologian of glory calls evil good and good evil. A theologian of the cross calls the thing what it actually is.

- Martin Luther, *Heidelberg Disputation*

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

'Cruciform' logo by Jesse Wu

Scripture

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

²⁶ For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Sermon

the Cruciform life: Cruciform Wisdom

Rankin Wilbourne

Events & News

Orphan Care: All In, September 24

Over four Sundays, take a deep dive into “why” and “how” to get involved with foster care children. This class draws from scripture-based curriculum that is focused on the need for homes, mentors and volunteers. 11 AM at SAMOHI and 3:30 PM at St. John’s.

Membership Seminar, September 30

If you are ready to call PCC your church home, come hear what the Bible teaches us about membership and what it means to be a member of PCC. Breakfast provided.

Pre-Marriage Seminar, November 11

Are you engaged or thinking about marriage? Are you newly married with a desire to have a godly marriage? Topics include the Biblical institution of marriage, communication, roles, and money.

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.