

---

THE CROSS



GOING DEEPER // EFFECTS OF THE CROSS: RECONCILIATION

Can you remember a time in your life when you were completely alone? Describe the event. What happened? How did it make you feel?

---

---

---

*The inevitable fear of “nothingness-in-isolation” that is inevitable because it is deserved. A terror of eternal aloneness of being only with one’s self, abandoned by all, loved by no one, mattering to no one.*

—Larry Crabb

### **PICTURES OF THE CROSS:**

The Bible speaks about the event of Christ’s crucifixion through multiple lenses.

- \* Justification - Being declared righteous
  - but this only produces a narrow view and it makes us see the cross only through the lens of “wrong vs. right” legal
- \* Christus Victor - Christ’s victory at Calvary
  - this only puts the cross through the lens of “winners and losers
- \* Regeneration - Made new
  - we become “in Christ” and finally are made alive

**Why is this Michelangelo Finger painting significant?**



## **SERMON OUTLINE**

### **3 images/pictures of life disconnected from God**

- a. enemies (Romans 5:10)
- b. hostile (Romans 8:7)
- c. alone (Luke 18, Titus 3:3)

### **What does God want for relationally broken, hostile, alone folks?**

- a. relationally re-connects us through the cross  
Romans 5:11  
Colossians 1:21-22
- b. new Standing - We have peace with God (Romans 5:1)
- c. renames us - I no longer call you (John 15:15)

### **Application: vertical Manifested Horizontally**

God's value on unity

Matthew 5:21-26 - Jesus thinks our unity is actually more important than our financial gifts and perhaps even our corporate worship.

- a. what's harder than being financially generous and paying your tithes and offerings? Relational health embodied in real time and space!
- b. we look at the metrics of \$\$\$, buildings, butts, the NT constantly looks at the metrics of how we're doing in our relationships!

*The first thing that has to be said about the biblical gospel of reconciliation, however, is that it begins with reconciliation to God, and continues with a reconciled community in Christ. Reconciliation is not a term the Bible uses to describe 'coming to terms with oneself', although it does insist that it is only through losing ourselves in love for God and neighbour that we truly find ourselves.*

**- John Stott**

God's power for Unity

Ephesians 2/Galatians 3:28 - This is how Biblical racial reconciliation works

- a. De-elevation of race - stop pointing to our race, skin, nationality
- b. Our unity in Christ is about de-elevating our individualism, not exulting in it.

Our priority on unity

Ephesians 4 - Paul is constantly working for unity in the New Testament Church

- a. Be diligent!! Work at it!

**VASTCHURCH.COM**

352 E. Hood Ave, Suite D, Sisters, OR 97759

541.719.0587 :: [hello@vastchurch.com](mailto:hello@vastchurch.com)

