



# CROSS OR GROSS

**18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**

**1 Corinthians  
1:18 (NKJV)**

❖ .You use **gross** to describe something unacceptable or unpleasant to a very great amount, degree, or intensity.

Collins dictionary

❖ .The cross of Jesus Christ is central to the Christian faith. The cross reveals to us the character of God: His love for lost sinners and His perfect justice meet at the cross. Steve J. Cole has been the pastor of Flagstaff Christian Fellowship since May, 1992. From 1977-1992

## 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Living Bible (TLB)

**18** I know very well how foolish it sounds to those who are lost, when they hear that Jesus died to save them. But we who are saved\* recognize this message as the very power of God. **19** For God says, “I will destroy all human plans of salvation no matter how wise they seem to be, and ignore the best ideas of men, even the most brilliant of them.”

### *Account of the power of the cross in the life of Peter and John the Apostles*

*Acts 3&4:10-12*

*<sup>10</sup> let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. <sup>11</sup> This is the ‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’ <sup>12</sup> Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*

**20** So what about these wise men, these scholars, these brilliant debaters of this world's great affairs? God has made them all look foolish and shown their wisdom to be useless nonsense. **21** For God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never find God through human brilliance, and then he stepped in and saved all those who believed his message, which the world calls foolish and silly. **22** It seems foolish to the Jews because they want a sign from heaven as proof that what is preached is true; and it is foolish to the Gentiles because they believe only what agrees with their philosophy and seems wise to them. **23** So when we preach about Christ dying to save them, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense. **24** But God has opened the eyes of those called to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, to see that Christ is the mighty power of God to save them; Christ himself is the center of God's wise plan for their salvation. **25** This so-called "foolish" plan of God is far wiser than the wisest plan of the wisest man, and God in his weakness—Christ dying on the cross—is far stronger than any man.

26 Notice among yourselves, dear brothers, that few of you who follow Christ have big names or power or wealth. 27 Instead, God has deliberately chosen to use ideas the world considers foolish and of little worth in order to shame those people considered by the world as wise and great. 28 He has chosen a plan despised by the world, counted as nothing at all, and used it to bring down to nothing those the world considers great, 29 so that no one anywhere can ever brag in the presence of God.

30 For it is from God alone that you have your life through Christ Jesus. He showed us God's plan of salvation; he was the one who made us acceptable to God; he made us pure and holy and gave himself to purchase our salvation.\* 31 As it says in the Scriptures, "If anyone is going to boast, let him boast only of what the Lord has done."

### Titus 3 Living Bible (TLB)

**<sup>3</sup> Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient; we were misled by others and became slaves to many evil pleasures and wicked desires. Our lives were full of resentment and envy. We hated others and they hated us.**

**<sup>4</sup> But when the time came for the kindness and love of God our Savior to appear, <sup>5</sup> then he saved us—not because we were good enough to be saved but because of his kindness and pity—by washing away our sins and giving us the new joy of the indwelling Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out upon us with wonderful fullness—and all because of what Jesus Christ our Savior did <sup>7</sup> so that he could declare us good in God’s eyes—all because of his great kindness; and now we can share in the wealth of the eternal life he gives us, and we are eagerly looking forward to receiving it.**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LmNU-B-Qx\\_k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LmNU-B-Qx_k)

<https://youtu.be/Ciql01rP5kc> with words