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# THE CROSS *and* CROWN

*"No Cross, No Crown"*

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*"Brothers and sisters, pray for us." I Thessalonians 5:25*

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One of my favorite chapters in the Bible is Acts 15, which covers the council at Jerusalem that met to determine what to do about the Gentile believers. It's amazing to me that a group of Spirit-filled people held a debate about how they should proceed, rather than just praying and getting the answer from the Spirit. Now, I've been on enough church boards to know that Spirit-filled people don't always see eye to eye on every issue! That's just how God created us.

If you have more than one child or any siblings, then you know just how different people raised in the same family, in the same circumstances, can be.

We shouldn't flee or fear difference in the church, or even among different churches. We need people with different backgrounds, different opinions and different perspectives in order to be effective. There would never be any progress in any field – art, music, technology – if everyone looked at things the same way. It took different-thinkers like Da Vinci, Beethoven and Gutenberg to advance the state of the art. And just as no single artist resonates with all different audiences, so no single church or denomination will be able to reach all of the different types of people in the world.

In II Chronicles 30:12, we read that "the hand of God was on the people to give them unity of mind, (...) following the word of the Lord." That's the key. As Paul puts it in I Corinthians 12, we are all different parts of the same body, held together by one head: Christ (Colossians 1:17,18). As long as we're all moving in submission to him, all of our differences will work together to support his eternal purpose.

*I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. (John 17:22,23)*

# Brothers and Sisters, Pray for Us!

Thank you for continuing to unite with us in prayer! Please agree with us as we seek God's wisdom and grace for:

- a new, Spirit-given urgency to reach the lost,
- the new additions to our team and our preparation for ministry this summer and beyond,
- God's wisdom, direction and provision for the church and the Academy, and
- urgent and immediate financial needs.

## We're praying with you!

If you're on our mailing list\*, you're on our prayer list! If there's anything specific that we can join with you in praying for, please let us know. (We will only publish your requests in this newsletter with your permission.)

Please do keep in touch! We're always delighted to hear from you and to pray with you!

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\* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we won't be offended! Just call or write us, and we'll remove you. (We'll still keep you on our prayer list!)

If you'd rather receive this letter via e-mail, please let us know, or subscribe to it at [crossandcrown.online/subscribe](https://crossandcrown.online/subscribe) !

## Did You Know?

The human body contains seventy-eight organs, kept alive by blood circulating through a network of vessels long enough to circle the earth twice. Whether you're thinking about it or not, every moment of the day or night – and even as you're reading this – your brain is working in the background, regulating that flow of blood.

**The human heart and mind are a mystery. (Psalm 64:6, Good News Paraphrase)**



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