

## Fired up about the Cross

### Boasting in the Cross . . .

- Combats our tendencies for comfort and control
  - Impression management
  - Influence
- Changes our relationship to the world

#### **The cross means freedom for ‘genuine worldliness’**

*“Jesus Christ, the crucified Reconciler—this means, first that by its rejection of Jesus Christ the entire world has become godless, and that no effort on its part can lift this curse from it. In the cross of Christ the worldliness of the world has once and for all received its indentifying mark. However, Christ’s cross is the cross of the world’s reconciliation with God. Therefore, precisely the godless world simultaneously stands under the identifying mark of reconciliation as freely instituted by God. The cross of reconciliation sets us free to live before God in the midst of the godless world, sets us free to live in genuine worldliness.”* Dietrich Bonhoeffer

- Creates us anew

#### **The ‘failure’ of the cross**

“Paul spoke not of resignation but of transformation. The very things that make us feel inadequate, the very things that plunder hope, these are what God uses to accomplish His work. For proof, look at the cross.     *Philip Yancey, The Jesus I Never Knew, 273*