WOW: Word Of the Week

Cruciform

March 25, 2026

Easter is coming. As I prepare weekly WOWs which I post midweek, I look ahead. Today's WOW is my Palm Sunday WOW. We must see the cross before we celebrate the resurrection. Next week: resurrection. This week: cruciform.

Cruciform. I look up definitions. My search often gives an AI summary before links to dictionary definitions. The AI summary was interested for what it did not say. I quote, "Cruciform describes any object, structure, or botanical form arranged in the shape of a cross, typically featuring four arms. It is commonly used in architecture to describe church floor plans." The AI summary went on to mention botany, art, and biology.

Did you notice what is missing? AI is no better than the information put in.

We can fairly easy understand cruciform – cross shaped – in the physical dimension. You already know that my focus will not be on architecture – even church building architecture, botany or art.

What does cruciform mean to you and me as we live our Christian faith in our daily lives? I suggest some possibilites.

→Cruciform refers to the spiritual life that embodies the cross of Jesus Christ – a life of sacrificial love, humble service, and surrendered submission.

→Cruciform describes a "cross-shaped existence" which consistently reflects Christ's death and resurrection.

→Cruciform describes a daily, intentional life based on Jesus' example, a life of sacrificial self-denial, humility, and love, focusing on "taking up the cross" rather than wearing it as an ornament.

→Cruciform challenges us as Christians to proclaim and live out the centrality of the cross in daily living.

After several longer WOWs in the series on radical discipleship, today's WOW is short.

Understanding and living out "cruciform" transforms the Christian life from mere belief in the cross to actively embodying the cross in daily life! Cross-bearing, crucified with Christ (Gal. 2:20). Sacrifice.

How will you embody the cross this week? How will you follow Jesus' footsteps? How will your life reflect that fact that you personally apply the power of the cross in your daily walk?

Homework! Take a few moments to meditate and pray about the power of cruciformity in your life!