



“God’s Wisdom vs. Human Wisdom”

I Corinthians 1:18 – 2:5 (ESV)

1. People Respond Differently To The Same Gospel Message

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

2. God Designed The Gospel For His Own Purposes

A. To frustrate **HUMAN** wisdom

1 Corinthians 1:19 For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

B. To make the world’s wisdom look **FOOLISH**

1 Corinthians 1:20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

C. To please Himself by **SAVING** believers

1 Corinthians 1:21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.

D. To demonstrate His **SUPERIOR** wisdom and power

1 Corinthians 1:22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

E. To shame the **WISE** and the strong

1 Corinthians 1:26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are ...

F. To bring the maximum **GLORY** to Himself

1 Corinthians 1:29 ...so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

3. Paul Proclaimed The Gospel In Such A Way As To Magnify God Rather Than Himself

1 Corinthians 2:1 And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Paul declared:

- My preaching did not contain lofty speech or wisdom
- My message was the simple Gospel
- My preaching style wasn’t very impressive
- My preaching was accompanied by spiritual power
- My goal in preaching was to cultivate faith in God’s power, not man’s wisdom

Closed-circuit for New Life Church Gahanna...

1. Our Main Message
2. Spreading it
3. Boasting about God

Brother’s Keeper Thought:

Share with your small group or spiritual partner what it would look like for you to “boast in the Lord.”

Bible Reading Plan

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|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sun.: 1 Cor. 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Mon.: 1 Cor. 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tues.: 1 Cor. 9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wed.: 1 Cor. 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs.: 1 Cor. 11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Fri.: 1 Cor. 12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sat.: 1 Cor. 13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sun.: 1 Cor. 14 | |