

**Together: study of 1 Corinthians**  
**“Learning to Live Like FOOLS”**  
**1 Corinthians 1:26-2:5**  
**January 7, 2018 / Pastor Shawn**

<sup>26</sup> Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. <sup>28</sup> God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one may boast before him. <sup>30</sup> It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. <sup>31</sup> Therefore, as it is written: “Let those who boast boast in the Lord.”

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

	World's Operating System	God's Operating System
<b>Background</b> (v. 26; 2:1a)	Favors a few: the smart, influential, wealthy	Offered to ALL: the fool, the weak, the lowly
<b>Purpose</b> (v.29, 31; 2:1b)	Self-advancement	Kingdom-advancement
<b>Method of Operation</b> (v.30a; 2:2)	Building my resume	Surrender my resume
<b>Power Source</b> (v.30b; 2:4-5a)	Limited; my abilities and strength	Unlimited: Spirit's power and Christ presence
<b>Result</b> (v.30c - 2:5b)	Temporary motivation & inspiration	Eternal transformation; righteousness, holiness, redemption

<sup>1</sup> And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. <sup>2</sup> For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup> I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. <sup>4</sup> My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.  
1 Corinthians 2:1-5

**♦ Apodeixis (ä-po'-dā-ksēs): “make manifest”; “prove; “to show favor”; “to demonstrate”**

### Discussion Questions

1. What was your “Take-Away” from Sunday’s message? Why did this resonate with you?
2. Which “system” do you find yourself living in most? Why is this?
3. If you were to use your life as an illustration for the Gospel, what would be said about you? (Compare Paul’s description of himself in 2:1-5.)
4. What was the centerpiece of Paul’s message to the Corinthians (2:2)? How does the cross shape your everyday decisions?
5. Greek philosophers were often polished orators whose eloquence and wisdom dazzled their audiences. How does this contrast with Paul’s preaching in Corinth? Why didn’t Paul rely on his great learning and communication skills?
6. Give some examples of “foolish,” “weak,” “despised” things. In your own words, explain the point of verses 26-28.
7. According to 1 Corinthians 1:30, what four (4) things did Jesus become? Define each word and explain the point.
8. With your group, take time to “boast in the Lord,” thanking Him for all that He has done for you.