



# CROSS CHURCH

DISPLAY THE BEAUTY OF THE GOSPEL

## Scripture | 1 Corinthians 2.6-16

How can a believer understand the words, works, and ways of God? The church has been given the mind of Christ by the Spirit of God. Without the Spirit, the world is left to mock what it does not understand. Wisdom from above is given and revealed by God; it is not acquired by man's abilities or denied because of some weakness. God does not leave his children in the dark. He wants his people to know and delight in truth. The Spirit desires to reveal to you more and more about Christ and about what in this life really matters and what doesn't.

### Observation

#### **READ 1 Cor 2.6-10 | Believers need to have their minds made right because they swim in the wisdom of the world.**

How had Paul just finished telling the Corinthians about wisdom and power in 2:1-5? What does he now say about wisdom in v6?

Why might Paul have used the word "mature?" If he was taking a term the Corinthians liked to call themselves, what might be his point? (3:1)

What kind of wisdom were the Corinthians embracing? Why was that a bad idea? Why are followers of Jesus not immune to the influences of the world's wisdom? In what sense do believers "swim" in the wisdom of the world?

In what venues/settings do you find yourself most saturated in worldly wisdom? Why is the wisdom of the world so easy to lapse into?

How can everyday practices ("liturgies") draw us into the wisdom of this age? How can the way we imagine the world ("social imaginaries") take us away from the wisdom of this age?

How does Paul describe the wisdom he is engaged in? What might it mean when he says, "We impart...?"

How does God's wisdom contrast with the wisdom of this age? Why "this age?" How is the wisdom of this age opposed to the cross? (v8)

What does Paul mean when he quotes Isa 64:4? What is his point?

Why are people at even their most creative and imaginative still foolish and opposed to God? Why must believers have their minds made right?

#### **READ 1 Cor 2.10b-13 | The Spirit makes the minds of believers right to be able to understand God's wisdom.**

How does Paul go from telling "why" in 10a to telling "what" in 10b about the Spirit? What does he say about one of the Spirit's "tasks?"



What things make the Spirit different from the Son or the Father? What things make the Spirit equal to the Son and to the Father? How does Paul illustrate the role of the Spirit in v11? How might it be true that only “like knows like?”

How is Paul’s declaration in v12 bold and unprecedented? How is it at the same time expected? (John 14:15-17)

Why would receiving the Spirit be so central in the thinking of the early church? (Acts 2:14-21, 2:37-38, 10:45-47) Why is receiving the Spirit what marks our experience as followers of Christ? What does Paul say the result is when we receive the Spirit? What things has God freely given us?

Why has “believing in order to understand,” not “understanding in order to believe” long been the way theologians expressed the order of what happens to us in Christ? Why is yielding to Christ before understanding Christ the priority we should work toward to help unbelievers?

What does Paul say he is imparting in v13? How is he imparting these things? Who is Paul imparting Spirit-enabled understanding to? Why to them?

How do we have Paul imparting Spirit-enabled understanding to us? Why are the Scriptures where we find Spirit-enabled understanding of God’s wisdom? (Matt 28:20) How do we see the process of Spirit-enabled understanding of God’s wisdom in Scripture played out in Acts 15:28? Rev 2:29?

How are the minds of believers made right? What does a right mind make avoidable that was previously unavoidable? (vv12-13)

### **READ 1 Cor 2.14-16 | Believers have the mind of Christ.**

How does Paul in v14 now restate the negative side of what he has just explained the positive side of in v12? What makes someone a “natural person?”

How does Paul’s description of the natural person match our experience as we try to explain joyous truths about Jesus to those who are not believers? In what sense does a natural person lack a vital piece of equipment for their lives?

If a natural person does not have the capacity/equipment to understand the gospel what should our approach to them be? Why? (John 1:12-13, 2 Cor 4:1-4)

How is Paul be using the word “judge” in v15? In what way can the spiritual person judge “all things?” What might Paul NOT be talking about when he says the spiritual person judges “all things?” Why can a spiritual person not be judged/rightly assessed by those who do not have the Spirit?

Who might Paul be thinking of when he quotes Isa 40:13 in v16? How does he contrast them with “we” in the last part of v16?

What is the significance of Paul taking the word “Yahweh/LORD” in Isa 40:13 and changing now to “Christ” How can we say that we have the mind of Christ?

Why would it be neglecting the mind of Christ to embrace/ operate by the wisdom of this age rather than embracing/ operating by the wisdom of the cross? How can we expand our tendencies and capacity to use the mind of Christ for all of life?

How can we let the Spirit and the Scripture do the “heavy lifting” of renewing our mind in Christ? (Rom 12:1-2)

## **Observation**

1. What stuck out to you or challenged you in what you heard in the sermon or read in the text? How did the Spirit move you to respond?
2. What are some specific things we do when we want to know other people better? How many of you have struggled with growing in your relationship with God? What do you usually do when you don't feel like you are growing closer to Him?
3. What qualities or actions exemplify spiritual maturity to you? Which characteristic do you most need to see increase in your life?
4. What is the relationship between spiritual maturity, the Holy Spirit, and the ability to understand God's wisdom?
5. What happens when you rely on human wisdom instead of God's wisdom?
6. How can you gain a greater desire for and understanding of the "depths of God" (v. 10)?
7. How did you feel about God and Christianity before your salvation? What changed in you that led to your conversion?
8. What can you do to exercise "the mind of Christ" more fully in your life?
9. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of believers? (cf. John 14.26 & 16.13-15) If non-Christians cannot understand the things of the Spirit, how can we talk with them about Christ?
10. Have you experienced the Spirit enabling you to understand God's wisdom & gifts? If so, how have you experienced this, and how should this affect your actions? If not, what do you think you should do about this?
11. What practical steps can you take to reduce the risk of making foolish decisions?
12. What sometimes keeps you from seeking God's help?
13. In what ways can you depend more on God's Spirit to help you make wise decisions? Where do you need the guidance of the Holy Spirit most in your life this coming week?

## **Prayer**

- Pray that your group members would continue to grow in the mind of Christ and would be more attentive to the Spirit's work in their lives this week. Pray that your group members would have a renewed desire to study Scripture for the sake of growing closer to God this week.
- Pray for the ending of red light districts each time you stop at a red light. Pray for the end of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation in all parts of the world. Pray for Women and children who are being trafficked and exploited.

## Observations & Prayer Requests

- **MY THOUGHTS** | Record insights and questions from the group experience.

- **MY RESPONSE** | Note specific ways you'll put into practice the truth explored this week.


- **MY PRAYERS** | List specific prayer needs and answers to remember this week.



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