

Holy People, God's Wisdom, and the Power of the Cross

The Apostle Paul opens his letter to the Corinthian church by addressing those who are "sanctified and called." But we quickly discover that much like ourselves, the Corinthian church was full of imperfect believers sorting out the impact of their faith on how they lived in the world. In the opening chapters of this letter, Paul reminds believers that God's wisdom may not make sense by the world's standards, "For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength" (1 Corinthians 1:25). Join us as we dig into Paul's message that when we are confused or need help discerning God's way, we should return to the basics and the heart of the gospel message.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What is wisdom? Who do you consider wise and why?
- What do you consider to be the basics of the gospel message? When did you first hear the gospel?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Holy People, God's Wisdom, and the Power of the Cross](#)

READ [1 Corinthians 1-2](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- The early church was full of drama. In the first segment, host Darrell Delaney finds this drama encouraging because "it does not halt God or stop him from wanting to be involved." Have you ever experienced church drama? If so, in what ways did you see God stay involved in the church, despite the human drama you observed or experienced?
- The Corinthians valued human wisdom, but as they did so, they forgot that human wisdom is nothing without God. In our world today, we too are bombarded with messages about how to improve our lives by taking these "seven" steps, reading *this* book, or following *that* exercise plan. These messages may sound wise, but don't often begin with what true wisdom is, namely, God. What messages have you received that may sound wise, but don't align with the wisdom of the cross?
- Through the work of Christ on the cross, God places weakness at the center of power. This was a stumbling block for the Jews in Jesus' day, and it remains a challenging reality for many today. When you think of the word power, what attributes come to mind? How does the gospel message impact the way you think about power?

- Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “I came to you in weakness.” Not an impressive resume, but Paul is focused on showing that it is not Paul himself, but rather the person and work of Jesus Christ, who makes his ministry effective. Christ crucified is the most basic element of the gospel. In what ways can you practice following the humble and sacrificial Jesus this week instead of focusing on your own qualifications?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Proverbs 1:7](#), [Matthew 7:24-27](#), [2 Corinthians 12:1-10](#), [James 1:5](#)

CONCLUSION

A message that is repeated time and again in our world today is that you need to become the best possible version of yourself. You need to be successful, rich, smart, and beautiful, or have top-tier qualifications, in order to be loved. Yet, as we’ve seen in [1 Corinthians 1-2](#), Paul proclaims a different message. The fact that Christ was crucified shows us that we don’t need to bring anything but ourselves to God, and he will love us unconditionally because we are fully accepted and made new in Jesus. From which worldly pressures does Paul’s message offer you freedom? How can you share this freedom with others in your life?

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