

The Hidden Depth of God. 1 Cor. 2:6-16

Big Idea: Christ followers live by God's Wisdom.

I) Basics of the Book of 1 Corinthians

"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. . . . 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."

A) The Book of 1 Corinthians was written to a church in BIG trouble. The root of their problems involved its members using the wisdom of the world in the church that operates on the wisdom of God. See Matthew 5:21 following.

"Wisdom is the best choice with the best result in every situation."

B) What set of wisdom is directing your life, the world or Gods?

"God's wisdom is like the iceberg. To those who only see the tip, it is intellectually treacherous, blindly unrealistic, and desperately purposeless. But those who have been born again of the Spirit see below the surface to the precious quiet depths. . . . Should it surprise us that unbelievers cannot see below the surface to the massive bulk of the excellent, truth and wisdom of Jesus teaching?" Swindal

II) Wisdom: The Main Idea

"Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."

A) The Corinthians needed to seek the wisdom of God over the wisdom of this world.

"The wisdom spoken of here is insight—perception about people, problems, our self, life, know as God's wisdom . . the thoughts of God. . . the things of the Holy Spirit . . the mind of God."

B) We worship, we read the Bible, we take classes that we might learn to think like God, and be filled with God's wisdom.

Life Point: Our Resolving Everyday Conflict class is about handing conflict with God's wisdom. Focus on God's priorities in conflict: Ask yourself, "Where is God in this situation?" Whatever you do, seek to glorify God—in every conversation in every situation, in every relationship. Imitate Him by loving others, showing mercy, setting aside your "rights", forgiving and loving with a big heart.

III) Wisdom and the Non-Christian---

"No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"— these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God."

Paul gives three reasons why nonbelievers see only the tip of the iceberg,

A) God's Wisdom is a mystery = musterion = secret. A mystery is something that is complex, intertwined, hard to grasp. But a secret is something that is clear to those who've been informed, while murky to those who haven't. To unbelievers, God's wisdom is a secret they are not in on; when they listen to a believer speaking its language they hear only unintelligible whispers.

B) God's Wisdom is not understood = ginosko= knowledge born of deep personal understanding. "Spiritual depth perception comes from experiential knowledge of God, not just intellectual comprehension of truths about Him.

"Unbelieving Bible scholars are like lazy scientists—those who might spend years just observing iceberg tips through high-powered lenses but never look below the surface to see what icebergs are really made of."

C) God's Wisdom is not only learned. It must be secured by the heart through faith and as a gift of the Holy Spirit.

"Paul's lies down that the only person who can tell us about God is the Spirit of God. He uses a human analogy. There are feelings which are so personal, things which are so private, experiences which are so intimate that no one knows them except a man's own spirit. Paul argues that the same is true of God. There are deep and intimate things in him which only his Spirit knows; and that Spirit is the only person who can lead us into really intimate knowledge of God."

IV) Wisdom and the Christian

"Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ."

A) To fix this church Paul had to direct the members to put aside the world's wisdom and seek the wisdom of God.

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge but fools despise wisdom and instruction." Proverbs 1:7

B) God's wisdom is seen in a suffering savior.

"The Gospel is the incredible news that even though we were enemies of God, alienated from Him by our sin and deserving eternal punishment, He reached out to be reconciled with us by sending his Son to take our punishment by dying in our place on the cross. Now through faith in Jesus, we have been reconciled to God, adopted into his family, and given a fresh start, a new life, and the supreme gift of enjoying Him forever.

C) God's wisdom leads us to daily death to self, "those who have truly died to themselves depend solely on God. . . they no longer have to rely on their own plans and intellect to see them through. They are the most secure people on earth. Luke 9:22-24

"The moment we place our faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit joins our lives and begins transforming us into Christ's image. 3:18 He indwells us Romans 8:9,11 He liberates us from the oppressive power of sin and communicates His thoughts to us as we draw upon His resources."