



1 Corinthians

WALKING **RIGHT SIDE UP** IN AN **UPSIDE DOWN** WORLD

CRAZY ABOUT JESUS

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Paul had not come to Corinth to make disciples for himself—or of himself; he had come to “*preach the gospel.*” **v. 17**

- Paul’s preaching was the message of the cross: Jesus Christ crucified on behalf of sinners.
- Many then and now call that message crazy . . . they were.

TWO DISTINCT GROUPS

- 1. *TO THE UNBELIEVER***—to those who are on the road to destruction—the gospel message sounds foolish. For those who desire worldly wisdom, the message of the cross seems absurd.
- 2. *BUT FOR BELIEVERS***—those who are being saved—the gospel message is the very power of God, as Paul wrote in **Romans 1:16**.

Worldly wisdom and intelligence cannot save you (**Rom. 1:22-25**), *but it can hinder you!*

BEWARE OF THE WORLD'S DEBATE CLUB v. 20-21

This is not saying being intelligent is wrong or has no place in the lives of believers; that is patently not true!

BUT IT IS SAYING: Don't be "***Worldly Wiseman.***"

- No human wisdom or intelligence can either discover scientific proof of God's existence or disprove God's existence.
- No human reasoning or intellect can bring salvation and a right relationship with God.

SIMPLE AND YET PROFOUND v. 22-24

- Many *Jews* considered the Gospel of Jesus Christ to be foolish because they thought the Messiah would be a conquering king who did many spectacular signs and miracles. ***No way could it be this simple!***
- The *Greeks*—also called *Gentiles*—did not believe in a bodily resurrection; they did not see in Jesus the powerful characteristics of their mythological gods, and they thought no reputable person would be crucified. ***No way God would be this weak!***

THE MIXED PLATE

If the Gospel is the only way, you are messing with:

- 1.** Mankind's humanistic belief system
- 2.** Mankind's self-righteousness
- 3.** Mankind's self-sufficiency
- 4.** Ultimately, you are messing with Mankind's gods

The truth is, their wisest ways cannot compare to Christ's cross. This may look ridiculous to the world, but Christ is our power, the only way. ***Anyone can be saved.***

IT'S NOT ABOUT US! v. 26-27

- Few would have been considered wise in the world's eyes (Greek *sophoi*, referring to the intellectuals or philosophers).
- Few were powerful or influential (Greek *dunatoi*, referring to the politicians and decision makers in government).
- Few were wealthy (Greek *eugeneis*, literally “those of noble birth,” referring to the aristocracy).

It's about humanity surprised by humility

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS v. 28-31

God chose the foolish and the weak, the *things despised by the world*, so that those chosen can never *boast in the presence of God*.

- So we who are saved boast not in our salvation, but in Christ alone, who provided that salvation through His grace alone through faith alone.
- That would make us just plain crazy about Jesus. To the world, just plain crazy. But really, who cares what people think when you're heading to heaven!