



1 Corinthians

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

THEY JUST DON'T GET IT

1 Corinthians 2:11-16

Do you ever wonder why your unbelieving friends and family often do not fully understand this “Jesus and salvation thing”?

- Our salvation involves all three Persons in the Godhead, as in **1 Peter 1:2**- *elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.*
- Any other way is a cultish plan.

DOCTRINAL CHARACTER OF THE CULTS

CULTS DEVIATE FROM BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY IN SEVERAL KEY AREAS OF DOCTRINE.

- 1.** Cults promote false teaching on the nature of God.
- 2.** Cults teach a false view of Jesus.
- 3.** Cults present a false teaching on salvation.
- 4.** There is a reliance on extra-biblical revelation and the denial of the sole authority of the Bible.

THE TRINITY AT WORK

- 1.** As far as ***God the Father*** is concerned, I was saved when He chose me in Christ before the foundation of the world. **Ephesians 1:4**
- 2.** As far as ***God the Son*** is concerned, I was saved when Jesus died for me on the cross 2,000 years ago.
- 3.** As far as ***God the Spirit*** is concerned, I was saved on April 13, 1968, when I was convicted by the Holy Spirit through a traveling evangelist at El Cajon First Baptist, who preached the biblical Gospel.

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Paul compared the Spirit's understanding of God with a person's understanding of himself or herself. You know you and God fully knows God.

- The Holy Spirit is a distinct person, yet one in essence and functions with God the Father and Jesus the Son.
- The mystery of the workings of the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—begins to unfold in verses such as these: **John 15:26; 16:7-8, 13-15.**

KNOWING GOD

- Paul challenged the Corinthians to consider the true source of their knowledge and experience of God.
- The Holy Spirit's wisdom and power come from God, not from any earthly source.
- The world does have its own version of wisdom and it will try to get you to trust in that wisdom.
- Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul was writing the very thoughts and words of God, which we have as the truth of the Bible.

SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT v. 14

- The Gospel sounded foolish to many in Corinth, just as it is scoffed at and ridiculed by many today.

UNBELIEVERS ARE POOR APPRAISERS. To “discern” means to examine and scrutinize; or to appraise the value of, know what it is worth!

- Unbelievers simply cannot comprehend Christ’s work on the cross, see the beauty and compassion of God’s divine plan, or desire to know God at all.
- For more on discernment, read **Romans 8:5-9**.

GOD, THE ONE PERFECT JUDGE

- Because believers have the Holy Spirit, we can discern things from God that are spiritual.
- We are able to make right judgments, not necessarily about all matters individually, but about spiritual matters such as salvation or the truths of God's Word.
- Paul quoted from **Isaiah 40:13** to show that a Christian is not subject to nonbelievers' judgments about spiritual matters. Our job is to simply present the true Gospel of Jesus Christ and let God judge.