

The Blessed Mess:
Paul's First Letter to the Church at Corinth
November 20th, 2022
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Wise and Otherwise (1 Corinthians 2:6-16)

"Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age..."
(v. 6)

- 1. Worldly wisdom is fading, God's wisdom is enduring (vv. 6-8)**
- 2. Worldly wisdom is an intellectual goal, God's wisdom is a Spirit-ual gift (vv. 9-14)**
- 3. Worldly wisdom is self-glorifying, God's wisdom is self-giving (vv. 7-8; vv. 15-16)**

For Further Thought and Discussion

Getting Started:

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?

Going Deeper:

2. Paul says that he imparts wisdom to the *"mature"* (v. 6). How *shouldn't* we understand this phrase? Who, according to Paul, are *"the mature"* (compare verses 14-15)? How were the Corinthians (likely) using this term? How does Paul correct their view of Christian maturity?
3. Who are the *"rulers of this age"* (vv. 6, 8; see Acts 4:25-28; compare also 1 Corinthians 1:20, 26)? What kind of wisdom did they seek? Why is their wisdom doomed to *"pass away"* (v. 6)? Why *wouldn't* these rulers have crucified Jesus, had they realized what they were doing (v. 8)?
4. What has God revealed to believers (see v. 9)? How does he reveal it? Why do we need the Holy Spirit to understand the wisdom of God (see vv. 10-12)? What kind of *"understanding"* does the Spirit give us? Why can't a *"natural"* person (v. 14) have this kind of understanding? How did the Corinthians view *"spirituality"* and *"wisdom"*? How is Paul correcting their views here?
5. Paul says that believers have *"the mind of Christ"* (v. 16). What does this mean? How did Christ embody God's wisdom (see vv. 7-8)? What will someone's life look like, if they have the mind of Christ (compare Philippians 2:5f)?

Application:

6. Only the Holy Spirit can awaken us to our own sin, and need for Jesus. This is true before we come to Christ, and after we come to Christ. How might this change the way we approach time in God's word? What kind of insight do we most need (see Ephesians 1:16-18)?
7. Jeff mentioned three differences between worldly wisdom and God's wisdom, and how to tell which wisdom we're living by on a day-to-day basis. Which of these points stood out to you? Why?
8. What's one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?