

LESSON 2
FOOLISH WISDOM
1 CORINTHIANS 1:10—2:16



1 List two or three common wise sayings or aphorisms (for example, “A penny saved is a penny earned”).

2 What is your favorite wise saying?



Read 1 Corinthians 1:10—2:16 and the following notes:

☐ 1:19 ☐ 1:22–24 ☐ 1:25 ☐ 2:4 ☐ 2:7 ☐ 2:10 ☐ 2:14, 15

3 What is foolish about the message of the cross (1:18–28)?

4 Why has God chosen what the world considers foolish (1:27–31)?

5 How were the Corinthians thinking with the world's mind and not with the mind of Christ?

6 For what reasons do many people today consider the message of the cross to be foolish?



Conventional wisdom says that changing the world requires eloquent spokespersons, popular leaders, and the use of power. Instead, God used ordinary, humble, and powerless people. And most amazing of all, he used the cross. Who would expect a Savior to die as a criminal? No wonder God's ways seem foolish to the world. The problem in the Corinthian church was that people were still looking at life from the world's perspective. This led to popularity contests, divisions, and spiritual pride. Paul had to bring them back to reality.

7 Why is it important to live God's way rather than the world's?

8 Why doesn't the world understand God's ways?

9 What are some examples of God's values that conflict with your culture's values?

10 Why is it difficult to live by God's wisdom and reject the world's wisdom?

11 How are Christians tempted to embrace the world's values?



12 Where in your own life does this battle occur?

13 How do you tell the difference between God's wisdom and the world's wisdom?

14 Write down at least one area in your life in which you have been listening to the world more than God.



15 How would God's wisdom change your situation?

16 What can you do this week to follow God's wisdom?

A Why does the message of Christ seem foolish to a Jewish person? What unique issues might need to be addressed in explaining the gospel to him or her?

B How did Paul approach ministry (2:1–6)? What lessons can those in ministry today learn from Paul's approach?

C What does it mean to have the mind of Christ (2:16)? How does Paul's assurance that we have the mind of Christ affect you?

D What is "the secret wisdom of God" (2:7)? How can a person have this wisdom?

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