

1 Corinthians 3

1. According to 1 Corinthians, what are the two types of wisdom?

-The wisdom of God, and the wisdom of people.

2. How are the wisdom of God and the wisdom of people different?

-The wisdom of God leads to eternal life, but the wisdom of people leads to eternal death.

-The wisdom of people makes them proud and think that they know better than God.

3. What is a reason why people do not believe in God?

-Human wisdom.

4. What is a reason why people sin?

-Human wisdom.

5. What does the story of the rich man and Lazarus teach us?

-If people will not listen to the Word of God, then no miracle will convince them to believe.

6. How do non-Christians look to their own wisdom?

-They think that their own wisdom will save the world from all its problems.

-They think that wise men, good kings, and good governments will fix the problems of the world.

7. How is Christ crucified a stumbling block to the

Jews?

-Because the Jews looked for a physical savior who would come and make them rulers of this physical world.

8. How is Christ crucified foolishness to the Gentiles?

-Because Gentiles cannot understand how a man dying on a cross can do anything for anyone.

9. What does the Word of God mean by saying that “the foolishness of God is wiser than man’s wisdom?”

-That although people think that what God says and does is foolish, He is wiser than any man could ever think.

10. What does the Word of God mean by saying that “the weakness of God is stronger than man’s strength?”

-That although people think that God is weak, He is far stronger than the strongest man.

11. Why does God choose the lowly, the weak, and those who are not important to the world?

-God does this to shame the wise, to shame the strong, and to shame the important.

12. Why does God want to shame the wise, the strong, and the important?

-So that these people would not believe in their wisdom, nor their strength, nor their importance, but rather believe in God.

-In Chapter 2, Paul reminds the Christians how he taught them when he came to Corinth.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 2:1

1-When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God.

-When Paul taught the people in Corinth, did he use words or wisdom that were difficult to understand?

-No.

-God through Paul used words and wisdom that were easy to understand.

-God through Paul taught the testimony about God or the Word of God that is simple, but profound.

-Some people teach using difficult words and thoughts that are not easy to understand.

-People who teach the Word of God using difficult words and thoughts may do this because they are proud.

-What are some possible problems when teachers use difficult words and wisdom when they are teaching?

-One problem is that people may not understand.

-If the teaching is too difficult, then the people might become discouraged, and think that God's truths are too difficult to understand.

-God does not want people to make His Word more difficult.

-When the Word of God is taught simply, it is extremely profound.

-When the Word of God is taught simply, it is extremely powerful.

-When the Lord Jesus taught, His teaching was very simple, yet very profound and very powerful.

-This is because the Word of God is as eternal as God Himself.

-Another problem is that the people may follow the teacher instead of following God.

-This means that the people would believe in the wisdom of the teacher, and not in the wisdom of God.

-When the Word of God is not taught simply, this should be a sign that there is a problem.

-God prefers that we teach His Word simply.

-This means that all Christians, with the help of God, can teach others about Christ.

-Jesus chose twelve uneducated fishermen to be His disciples.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 2:2

2 -For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

-What does Paul mean when he said that he resolved to know nothing except Jesus Christ and Him crucified?

-That Christ's crucifixion on the cross should be the foundation of all of our teaching.

-How is Christ's crucifixion the foundation of our teaching?

-Without Christ's death on the cross, the teaching about God means nothing.

-Without Christ's death on the cross, no one is saved.

-Without Christ's death on the cross, all people would die and live forever in the Lake of Eternal Fire.

-While God through Paul taught other truths of God, the teaching of the crucifixion of Christ was the foundational teaching.

-In the early Church, most of the teaching was about the crucifixion of Christ.

-As most of the teaching was about the crucifixion of Christ, non-Christians thought that Christians worshiped

a dead man.

-What would be our hope without the crucifixion of Christ?

-Nothing.

-What would be our life without the crucifixion of Christ?

-Nothing.

-The crucifixion of Christ along with His resurrection is the most important event in eternity.

-We have learned that Paul did not teach with difficult words and wisdom, but taught simply of Christ crucified.

-What else can we learn from Paul's teaching?

Let's read 1 Corinthians 2:3

3-I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling.

-In Philippi, Paul was beaten and put in prison.

-In Thessalonica and Berea, he was chased out of town.

-In Athens, some people laughed at his teaching.

-In Corinth, Paul knew that the people were full of sin.

-Yet, what does it mean that Paul came to Corinth in weakness, fear, and with much trembling?

-Was Paul afraid of the Corinthians?

-No.

-Paul was beaten and stoned and left for dead many times, yet he continued to teach boldly about God.

-What does it mean that Paul came to Corinth in weakness, fear, and with much trembling?

-Paul is talking about his teaching of the Word of God.

-When Paul taught, he did not want to depend on his own strength nor on his own wisdom.

-When we teach in our own strength, where is the strength of God?

-It is not there.

-When we teach in our own wisdom, where is the wisdom of God?

-It is not there.

-When we teach to honor ourselves, where is the honor for God?

-It is not there.

-When we teach the Word of God, why should we be weak?

-So that God can be strong in us.

-When we teach the Word of God, what should we be

afraid of?

-That we would teach in our own wisdom, and not allow God to teach through us.

-When we teach the Word of God, what should we tremble about?

-That we would not honor ourselves but rather honor God.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 2:4-5

4-My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power,

5-So that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

-Instead of teaching with our own wisdom, how should we teach?

-With the power of the Holy Spirit.

-How do we teach with the power of the Holy Spirit?

-By allowing the Holy Spirit to teach through us.

-Here is an illustration:

-When people first try to write, they are afraid.

-When a teacher tries to guide their hand, their hand becomes stiff.

-But if they relax and allow the teacher to guide them, then they will learn how to write.

-In the same way, God the Holy Spirit wants us to allow Him to guide us as we teach others.

-What is the reason for teaching with the power of the Holy Spirit?

-That the people would believe in God, and not in the teacher.

-If we teach in our own wisdom, then there will be no power of the Holy Spirit to help people to believe.

-If, however, we allow the Holy Spirit to teach through us, He will help people to see their sin and ask Christ to save them.

-The Holy Spirit in us knows the hearts of the people we are teaching.

-The Holy Spirit in us knows what best to say to people.

-The Holy Spirit in us knows the truths of God that the people need to hear.

-The Holy Spirit in us does a better job of teaching than we can do in our own wisdom.

-The best example of this truth is the Lord Jesus.

-Even though Jesus is God, He depended on the Father to speak through Him.

-In John 8:28, Jesus said this:

-“When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.”

-Why did Christ not speak on His own, but rather depended on the Father to speak through Him?

-To teach us that we should also allow God to speak and teach through us.

-God the Holy Spirit in us does a better job of teaching than we can in our own wisdom.

-Our teaching should be from God alone, as God alone is able to save people.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 2:6

6-We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

-With these verses, God and Paul continue to teach about a lack of unity and division in the church.

- What does worldly wisdom do for the church?
- It causes division, and is a barrier to understanding the Word of God.
- Yet, the wisdom of God flows from His Word.
- Even more, the wisdom of God is His Word.
- The people of this world cannot understand God's Word.
- For us Christians, however, the Holy Spirit teaches us so that we can understand.
- All who been taught by the Holy Spirit understand it.
- When Jesus told the Jews that He was the Bread of Life, they did not understand.
- Here is what Jesus said:
 - “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world” (John 6:51).
 - The Jews began to argue among themselves, and said, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”
 - Because they did not understand, many of Jesus' disciples left Him (John 6:66).

- Why did many of Jesus' disciples leave Him?
- They could not understand.
- They thought His words were foolish.
- When Jesus asked Peter if he would leave, what did Peter respond?
- Peter said: “You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”
- True disciples of Christ believe in Him and His Word.
- Why can the wisdom of this world not save sinners from eternal death?
- Because the wisdom of this world only speaks about the things of this world which will soon pass away.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 2:7-8

- 7-No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began.
- 8-None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
- What is God's secret wisdom?
- It is simply the truths of God that people cannot

understand without God's help.

-This is what Jesus said in Matthew 11:25:

-“I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.”

-What is proof that the Jewish and Roman leaders did not understand God and His truths?

-They crucified Christ.

-If the leaders would have had the wisdom of God, they would have never crucified Christ.

-Although Jesus told them, they refused to believe that He was God's Son.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 2:9

9-However, as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him.”

-Can physical eyes, physical ears, and physical minds understand God?

-No.

-The truths of God cannot be understood by people who do not believe in Christ.

-For Christians, however, God has prepared for us who love Him the understanding of all of the truths of God.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 2:10-11

10-But God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

11-For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

-To all who believe in Christ, God has revealed His wisdom to us by His Holy Spirit.

-The Holy Spirit knows the Father intimately, and therefore, is able to reveal to us all that we need to know about the Father.

-Just as the spirit of a man or woman knows his heart more than anyone else, the Holy Spirit knows the heart of the Father more than anyone else.

-This means that all that the Holy Spirit reveals to us about the Father is an intimate part of the Holy Spirit.

-This is what Jesus told the apostles before He was crucified:

-“When he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak

only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come” (John 16:13).

Let’s read 1 Corinthians 2:12-13

12-We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.

13-This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.

-In the verses above, those who do not believe in Christ have the spirit of the world.

-This is why they cannot understand the truths of God.

-Only by having God the Holy Spirit are we able to understand the truths of God.

-Teaching with words taught by human wisdom cannot understand spiritual truths.

-Only teaching with words taught by the Holy Spirit are we able to understand spiritual truths.

-Did the apostles and prophets speak and write with words that they chose?

-No.

-They spoke with words which the Holy Spirit chose.

-When the apostles and prophets taught the church, the Holy Spirit guided them to speak the correct words.

-When the apostles and prophets wrote the books in the Bible, the Holy Spirit guided their minds to choose the exact words which God wanted them to write.

Let’s read 1 Corinthians 2:14-15

14-The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

15-The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man’s judgment.

-Who is the man without the Spirit?

-One who does not believe in Christ.

-If a man without the Holy Spirit is wise about the world, can he understand about God?

-No.

-People without the Holy Spirit can read the Bible many times, and yet, not understand about God.

-The scribes and the Pharisees read and taught the Old Testament, yet they did not understand about God.

-Even when Christ Himself taught them, the scribes and Pharisees did not understand about God.

-Why can a man without the Holy Spirit not understand about God?

-Because his spirit is separated from God.

-Because his spirit is dead to God.

-Because his spirit is still under the power of Satan.

-Without the Holy Spirit, we cannot understand about God.

-Without the Holy Spirit, the mind of a man is darkness.

-Who is the spiritual man?

-One who has believed in the Lord Jesus Christ.

-As Jesus told Nicodemus, “Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit” (John 3).

-It is the Holy Spirit that gives birth to our spirits.

-For Christians, while our bodies remain the same, the Holy Spirit gives a new birth to our spirit.

-This is the meaning of being born again.

-Does a person who is born again understand about God?

-Yes.

-Why does a person who is born again understand about God?

Let's read 1 Corinthians 2:16

16-“For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

-Why does a person who is born again understand about God?

-Because Christians have the mind of Christ.

-Is having the mind of Christ the same as having the Holy Spirit?

-Yes.

-Why is having the mind of Christ the same as having the Holy Spirit?

-Because Christ and the Holy Spirit are one.

-Do only “perfect Christians” have the mind of Christ?

-No.

-All Christians have the mind of Christ.

-We should remember that God and Paul are writing to all of the Christians in Corinth.

-As we have already learned, the Christians in Corinth

were far from perfect as they were fighting over their teachers.

-We should also remember that God and Paul are writing to all Christians in the world, and no Christian is perfect.

-In Luke, there is an example of Christ opening the disciples' minds and pouring His mind into theirs:

-After Christ rose from the dead, He appeared to the disciples when they were together.

-Even though Christ showed His disciples His hands and feet, they still did not believe that He had risen from the dead.

-Then, Christ opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures (Luke 24:45).

-What does it mean that we have the mind of Christ?

-Having the mind of Christ means that we understand that this world is full of sin and only temporary.

-Having the mind of Christ means that we understand that God will make a new world that will be perfect.

-Having the mind of Christ means that we understand that sin hurts God and us.

-Having the mind of Christ means that we understand

that we will one day be perfect without sin.

-Having the mind of Christ means that we understand that God wants to save all people from eternal death.

-Having the mind of Christ means that our lives and the life of Christ become one.

-Like Christ, we obey the Father.

-Like Christ, we humbly serve others.

-Like Christ, we pray for the lost.

-Since all Christians have the mind of Christ, does this mean that Christians no longer sin?

-No.

-Even though we have the mind of Christ, we still have old ways and old habits that continue to work in our lives.

-Therefore, we must continue to teach our minds the Word of God so that our old ways and old habits would become less and less, and that the mind of Christ in us would rule our lives.

-Every Christian has the mind of Christ.

-The problem is that we do not always use His mind.

-May we pray that we would use that which our God has already given us.