

2/12/23

Sermon: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Pastor David Uth

The Church Divided: Week 5

Passage: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16: “And I, when I came to you, brothers,^[a] did not come proclaiming to you the testimony^[b] of God with lofty speech or wisdom. 2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, 4 and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men^[c] but in the power of God.

Wisdom from the Spirit

6 Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. 7 But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. 8 None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,

nor the heart of man imagined,

what God has prepared for those who love him”—

10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 11 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. 13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.^[d]

14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. 15 The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. 16 “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.”

Instructions:

This discussion guide serves as a conversation starter for your small group. Every week we will feature an icebreaker question in the **Belong** section as well as give you a recap from the week before. Your main discussion will be centered around the **Believe** section where you will read the key passage and answer suggested questions based on the sermon. Feel free to use some or all of these questions or add your own. Finally, in the **Become** section we will give you a couple of ways to practically apply what we have learned together.

Belong:

Week 4 Recap: Last week Pastor David finished 1 Corinthians chapter 1 reminding us that God did not call us because He needed us, He called us because he wanted us. Pastor David also shared with us that everything we have we have because God gave it to us. This week, Pastor David continues teaching from 1 Corinthians 2 where Paul focuses on the Spirit and Wisdom of God.

Ice Breaker: What is something that comes naturally to you that others have complimented you for being able to do? (For example, cooking, gardening, sports, etc.)

Believe:

Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5: What is Paul's testimony among the Corinthians? Why do you think Paul's used this approach with them? Do you think it was easy for Paul NOT to rely on his lofty words or superior philosophy when he came to the Corinthians? Do you find this interesting that Paul would bring this up after he has mentioned their division over leaders? Why or why not?

Read 1 Corinthians 2: 6-12: According to verse 2:10, how is the wisdom of God revealed to believers? What are 3 things that are true of the wisdom of God?

Cross Reference: Isaiah 66:1-4 - What do you learn about God in these verses?

How would you compare the wisdom of God to the wisdom of the world/age?

Read 1 Corinthians 2:14-16: When we follow Christ we are going to be different than those around us. It is also true that non-believers may not understand why we would be willing to follow Jesus and listen to the Holy Spirit. When have you made decisions that others thought were crazy but you knew it was God's way? How did you communicate your decision to follow Christ? Was following God's way easy? Was it worth it?

What does it mean that as a spirit-filled believer you have the mind of Christ?

Become: What would it look like for you to actively seek and follow the wisdom of God this week? Ask someone in your small group to hold you accountable to following through with your goal.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for your life-giving Spirit that reveals to us the heart and wisdom of God. May we actively seek to know you better and listen to your Spirit within us.