

CHRIST CRUCIFIED

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The Problem of Pride

The cross is how God deals with human pride.

“The gospel transforms the cross as a symbol of Roman terror and political domination into a symbol of God’s love and power. It shows that the power of God’s love is greater than human love of power.” (David E. Garland)

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

"The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing..." (1:18)

"We preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles." (1:23)

God was wise not to let human wisdom be the way to knowing God.

“For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.” (1:21)

God makes human wisdom foolish by turning what is foolish in the eyes of people into wisdom.

“We preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”(1:23-24)

The only way to know God is through the way of the cross, not through human wisdom.

“For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.” (1:22-24)

Boasting

- People like to boast about something.
- Boasting can be good or bad, depending on the object of our boasting and the spirit behind the boasting.

God is greater than all the power and wisdom of the world.

“For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.” (1:25)

“For consider your calling, brothers: **not many of you were wise** according to worldly standards, **not many were powerful**, **not many were of noble birth**. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.” (1:26-29)

Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.” (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

God turned them from ‘nobodies’ to ‘somebodies’.

“And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.” (1:30-31)

Knowing what it means to be ‘in Christ’ so that what is true of Jesus is true of you is essential to our Christian discipleship.

God is glorified when we boast in Him.

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”
(Galatians 2:20)