

1 CORINTHIANS
CALLED OUT
SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM



Sermon: **We Preach Christ (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)**

Date: **February 28, 2016**

Corinth is a young and sophisticated city. It is full of philosophers, entrepreneurs, celebrities, academics, and hipsters. This cosmopolitan city sneered at the message of a crucified Messiah. Talk of crucifixion was crude and frowned upon. To the Jew, a crucified Messiah was offensive. To the Greek, a crucified Messiah was foolish. To Paul and to the Christian, a crucified Messiah is everything. “For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” In other words, the word of the cross is the power of God to salvation. Anything else leads to hell. In this week’s study, we will be reminded of the centrality of Christ crucified to the Christian life. From our Sunday morning worship services to our kid’s ministry to our evangelism to our parenting to our marriages, the cross of Christ must be central.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 and ensure that you’ve listened to Sunday’s sermon.
 - a. Verse 18 describes two different types of humanity. What are they and what are they characterized by?
 - b. Paul quotes Isaiah 29:14 in verse 20. Why does he quote this verse and what does it teach us?
 - c. Why does Paul ask the first three rhetorical questions in verse 20?
 - d. What does Paul mean when he says at the end of verse 20, “Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?”?
 - e. Why must the people of God solely focus on preaching Christ crucified (verse 23)?
 - f. According to verse 23, the cross is a stumbling block to the Jews and folly to the Gentiles. Why then are some Jews and Gentiles able to respond in faith to the message of the cross (see verse 24)?

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- g. Verse 24 says that Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. How might that truth give you confidence as you share Christ with someone else?
- h. How does verse 25 encourage you and increase your faith in the wisdom and power of God?
2. Some stumble over the gospel, others see it as foolishness, but some respond to it in faith. The ones who respond in faith do so because they have been called by God (verse 24). Look up the verses below and record what they say about those whom God has called.
- Romans 8: 30
 - 1 Peter 2:9
 - Galatians 5:13
 - 1 Peter 5:10
 - Jude 1

Group Discussion Questions

1. Why is it so important that we as Christians and as a church preach Christ crucified above all else?
2. What will happen to our church if we fail to keep Christ central to everything we do?
3. Why must we not be surprised when people reject the gospel?
4. Why should remembering that we have been called by God keep us humble when we preach Christ? How does remembering that we have been called by God increase our confidence in our security in Christ?
5. How can we ensure that Christ is central in every area of our life (e.g. parenting, finances, marriage, workplace, church, etc.)?

Accountability Questions

Is there an area of your life (parenting, finances, marriage, workplace, etc.) where Christ is not central?