

Human wisdom - that's easy to dismiss - really it's conventional wisdom, logical wisdom

Not better than them, but there is this distinct line here between people who know Jesus and people who don't. Paul says that the "mature" are people who have entered into that relationship with Jesus, and because of the new reality of the Spirit living in them, they can actually understand God.

Question: How many people sit in our churches filling their heads with knowledge about God, but can't even hope for wisdom because they have never really surrendered to the Spirit?

Cart before the horse type thing?

Conventional Wisdom vs. Spirit Wisdom

What gives us unity is the Spirit. Spirit wisdom lays out a very different path for us as we interact with each other.

Christians look different from each other, have different jobs, quirks, traits, color of skin, economic status, but the Spirit is the same. Here, in other churches in our town, country, world.

When it comes to other believers, that means we have a new way of dealing with people. We cannot have an "us v. them" mindset. That's conventional wisdom, not Spirit wisdom.

You want to know why our country is so divided? Really, at its base level? It's because we have far too many people functioning in their relationships guided by conventional wisdom.

Now here is the punch to the gut. People, when they think of church, often times think of divisiveness. We as Christians are as divided as anyone else, but we are supposed to know better. Not perfect, but if what Paul says here is true, we must act differently.

Human wisdom, conventional wisdom—Paul doesn't say merge it, to find a middle ground, but get rid of it all together.

Conventional wisdom plays it safe and honestly is weak. Spirit wisdom is dangerous but Paul says it holds power. It's the heart of God.

AND WE CAN KNOW IT!

He came to them in fear and trembling, not with much of a polished message. And why oh why then did it make such great impact. BECAUSE he was in Christ, he knew the heart of God, because he had Spirit wisdom available to him.

Some of us try to function in our jobs, our marriages, our families, our habits, our world with conventional wisdom at the helm, or worse, some weird Frankenstein of the two. It always leads to heartache, to unfulfillment, to disappointment.

I just knew Jesus.

Verse 2 - what is my life about

Regularly challenge conventional wisdom with biblical truth.

conventional wisdom
comfortable wisdom
convenient wisdom

Spirit wisdom

Your problems and dysfunction have a solution, but you are looking at the wrong place.

Spirit wisdom is going to be awkward—internal awkward.

Pushing each other into deeper relationship with God

Some ideas

Statistics

Call to salvation

Immerse yourself in Spirit wisdom

God's Word

Community

convenient wisdom
conventional wisdom
comfortable wisdom

1 Corinthians 2

Worldview is important

Catch up - up to this point, Paul has addressed these issues with people fighting over who they follow. Paul shuts them down pretty hard, and even points them to the very message that all these people were preaching anyway, the message of the cross: through Christ crucified, people can be saved. That's where we jump in.

Paul talks about a very important shift in our worldview in Chapter 2.

Proclaiming Christ Crucified

And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. (1 Corinthians 2:1)

Real quick, I don't think it was because he couldn't. Paul was educated, a Pharisee, Roman citizen, smart dude, and we see that in other writings. But when he came, he chose to approach the preaching of the Gospel a different way.

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. (1 Corinthians 2:2-5)

Paul is saying here, "Listen I came to you, I made it simple. I didn't even come with much confidence. But it's because you need to know exactly where this came from, and that's Jesus. When you look at me, that's all you're going to see." Man, that could be a message in and of itself right there. Paul knew that the Jews he was talking to wanted signs and wonders. It says in chapter one, "and the Greeks wanted wisdom", which we also find in chapter one. But almost as if in response to these wants and desires he says, no way. The message itself is insane. It's life changing, it will turn everything upside down. It's enough. The Gospel is enough. That's good for those of us in here this morning who are Christians to know. The Gospel is always enough, and the Gospel lived out proves itself just fine.

Use all the big words, all the fancy strategies, all the coolest stuff. Camp out on relevance or tradition. While I think there is a time and place for all of those things, at the core, the Gospel is enough. This ridiculous story of Jesus and what He has done is as compelling as it ever was. And Paul wants to make sure that the Corinthians, who had heard this message, and now were struggling with how to live it out, knew that: whatever wisdom or tricks or tips you may have thought up, throw 'em out.

Back to chapter 1

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. And because of Him you are in Christ Jesus, Who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, (1 Corinthians 1:27-30)

But where does that leave us? If Paul is calling these people to effectively get rid of their current worldview, the one that seems to make the most sense—really practical, logical, and even conventional wisdom—then what do we move to? That is what Paul really spends the rest of the chapter tearing into and providing an incredible case for.

Wisdom from the Spirit

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. [Some debate on who the “mature” is. Some draw the line at salvation, some as more of a mature believer. In any case the main takeaway is that the “mature” know Jesus.] But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 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”— (1 Corinthians 2:6-9)

So basically Paul is saying that the way of God can't really be known. It's been around, but it's secret. The smartest and richest and most powerful people in the world didn't understand it, otherwise they wouldn't have killed Jesus. But good news in verse 10.

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? (1 Corinthians 2:10-11a)

And every husband who has asked, “Are you ok?” only to hear, “I'm fine,” said amen, right? It's not always that way, but it always seems that someone in the relationship always has more on their mind than just what they are saying. At least that's how it is with Megan and me.

So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 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. (1 Corinthians 2:11b-12)

Paul is saying here that only the Spirit can know the thoughts of God. Which at first reading might seem like a bummer, until we recognize that when we have surrendered our lives to Jesus, we have that same spirit living in us! Which means what? That we can understand the things “FREELY GIVEN US BY GOD.”

God, in another move of just ridiculous grace, not only saves us, but doesn't just leave us to figure it out, He actually gives us the Holy Spirit which is the only way to even do this thing.

And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. (1 Corinthians 2:13)

When we have the Spirit why would we ever go back.

That's something I don't get about us as a human race. I'm just as guilty as anyone. Here we are, having this laid out for us as plain as day that we have the HOLY SPIRIT. Third person of the Trinity in us guiding us, correcting us, encouraging us, teaching us, and, according to this, changing how we see the world. Yet we still act like it's not quite enough right? We want more proof, more signs, more whatever.

Disneyland Fastpass story

Conventional wisdom says don't pick the guy who is 100 years old to start a nation.
Spirit wisdom said trust. (Abraham)

Conventional wisdom says pick the most qualified, the strongest, tallest man to be king of this fledgling nation.

Spirit wisdom picked a boy tending the sheep as the king. (David)

Conventional wisdom would pick a well-liked, brave, eloquent man to free a nation.
Spirit wisdom picked a cowardly murderer with a stutter and bad temper who constantly had people mad at him. (Moses)

Conventional wisdom would have given up on these people who kept rebelling.
Spirit wisdom gave correction, but second chance after second chance to the nation of Israel.

Conventional wisdom says stick to your day job, you simple, unlearned men.
Spirit wisdom called 12 men to leave everything behind to follow Jesus.

Conventional wisdom would say you have hurt too many Christians, your shame is too great to have a voice in that community.

Spirit wisdom gave Paul the courage and every word he ever needed to say.

Conventional wisdom said it wasn't worth losing your family, your things, your life.
Spirit wisdom gave boldness to generations of Christians who have stood up in the face of incredible persecution to make Jesus' name known all around the world.

Conventional wisdom would say to Jesus, "If you have to come, come like the King that You are."

Spirit wisdom gave a fragile baby, born surrounded by animals in the middle of a scandal right out of the pages of a soap opera script.

It took Jesus to a cross, a horrific death, to pay for what you and I deserve to pay, the very people who put Him there, to make a way for us to have relationship with God.

Bring it to today

Conventional wisdom says do what you want, you only live once, live it up, don't let anyone tell you what to do.

Spirit wisdom says you will find the most freedom you could ever experience by surrendering.

Conventional wisdom says you need to look out for you and yours, after all, that's responsible.

Spirit wisdom says lay down your VERY LIFE for others, even those who hate you.

Conventional wisdom says trust in yourself, because you're the only one who is really for you.

Spirit wisdom says trust in God, because He knows you COMPLETELY and loves you.

Conventional wisdom says, even as a Christian, give, but not too extravagantly; forgive, but within reason; love, but not to the point where you get hurt.

Spirit wisdom says with all your heart, and soul and mind and strength. Spirit wisdom says whatever the cost, wherever you lead, because now that I know the thoughts that go through the head of the Creator of the universe about me and about this world how can I do anything different?

You see these two worldviews are at WAR with each other. Trying to live under both is impossible. It's exhausting. Yet don't we find ourselves trying to do so often? I have to believe that so much of our dysfunction, our struggle, our conflict in here and between each other comes from us trying to find some way to live in conventional wisdom, and spirit wisdom where they can both be satisfied. Church: IT CAN'T! It will never happen.

BECAUSE ...

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. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct Him?" (1 Corinthians 2:14-16)

To summarize this into a sentence: When you surrender your life to Jesus, your whole worldview changes.

Then our job becomes to live our lives by the Spirit, letting our worldview that is set on Jesus, played out by the Spirit, make what we do, say, how we live, look like Him.

But we have the mind of Christ.

This isn't theoretical. This changes everything we do!

Redding?

But wait, here we are at the end of the passage and what does this have to do with community? At first I wasn't quite sure. Paul wrote this because they were blowing it on community, but how does this fit?

This seems more personal and less communal, but it's not.

The last time you thought of something that was divisive in the church, that hindered real honest relationship in the church, I bet you could trace it back to conventional wisdom.

And the last time you saw the church "big church" functioning at its best it was because people were really functioning out of Spirit wisdom. God's wisdom.

What would our homes look like if they were filled with Spirit wisdom?

What about your small group, your peer ministry this room? What would the places we find ourselves with other believers look like if we really committed to living under this new worldview?

Spiritual things seem foolishness to the natural man. Why waste time on "spiritual" things when you could be making money or having fun? Had a student just this week call me up and pass the phone over to his friend who asked me this very question.



GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER

- 1 What was the boldest thing you did to get to know your spouse or a person you have had a relationship with? Share a brief story with the group.
- 2 How many of you have struggled with growing in your relationship with God? What do you usually do when you don't feel like you are growing closer to Him?

Although no human being can know everything about God, our understanding of Him and His purposes always has room to grow. God will give us the needed spiritual insight to understand more about Him through the Holy Spirit's involvement in our lives. Kyle shared about what it looks like to operate in the wisdom of the Holy Spirit instead of the conventional wisdom of this world. Let's dig in!

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

DIG DEEPER

- 1 Someone read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5.

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 (ESV)

¹ And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony 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 but in the power of God.

In vs. 1-5, we read that all we need know is Jesus and the Gospel. Do you ever feel the sense that Jesus isn't enough in our life? How might you put your trust and faith in something else other than Him and what He did for us on the cross?

- 2 Someone read 1 Corinthians 2:6-16.

1 Corinthians 2:6-16 (ESV)

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. 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.

According to verse 14, who can't understand the things of God and why? What kind of attitude should we have as we approach those who don't understand the mind of Christ? If someone who doesn't believe in God cannot understand the things of the Spirit, how can we talk with them about Jesus?

How did you feel about God and Christianity before your salvation? What changed in you that led to your conversion?

What does it mean to have the mind of Christ (v.16)? When in your spiritual journey did the "mind of Christ" start to make a difference in your values, choices, and decisions?

LIVE IT OUT

1

The Holy Spirit has to be alive in us in order to live in Spirit wisdom. For centuries people have debated as to what this looks like and how we know if it's the Spirit leading us or just the "pizza" we ate the night before. **Read Galatians 5:16-26 together.** How does Paul help us define what this means in this passage?

2

Looking back at Galatians 5:16-26, is there any "fruit" in your life that needs to be pruned? How do we go about doing that? Is there any "fruit" in your life you'd like to further develop? How do we go about doing that?

3

Kyle spoke about how conventional wisdom and Spirit wisdom are at war with each other in our lives. Give an example from your life when conventional wisdom failed. Give an example of when you rejected conventional wisdom for Spirit wisdom instead. How can we move closer towards living by the "Spirit wisdom" Paul speaks of in 1 Corinthians 2?

***SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:** It is very easy in our culture today to have a bent towards conventional wisdom, especially when we hear something that sounds logical, confirms our bias, and requires the least amount of change in us.

4

How does living in Spirit wisdom impact how we treat each other in community? In our families? In our workplaces? In our church family? In our small group? In our neighborhood?

CLOSING PRAYER

Take a few minutes to pray for each other - that each of you would continue to grow in the mind of Christ and would be more attentive to the Spirit's work in your lives this week. Ask God to give everyone a renewed desire to study Scripture for the sake of growing closer to God this week.

PRAISE/PRAYER REQUESTS:

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How to Use this Discussion Guide

The guide is meant to serve you and your group as you intentionally create a healthy environment for Gospel community, growing in friendship, and living like Jesus together. Use the guide as a tool to help your unique group.

With that in mind, please review the guide before your group meets to see if some content or questions might resonate more or less with your group. Don't feel pressure to read all the content during your group discussion or to hit on all the questions. The guide is not meant to be something you power through for the sake of completing. Pick the content from the guide you feel will help your grow in Gospel community.

In addition, spend some time praying for your group each week, preparing your heart, and asking God for wisdom and guidance as you lead. We are praying for you too!

Visit cpmodesto.org/groupleaders to download the sermon discussion guide every week.

Not in a Home Group, but want to be in one? Visit cpmodesto.org/homegroups and use the Group Finder!