

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

1 Corinthians 2:6-16

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-16.

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

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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.

1. What does Paul impart? (verse 6)
 - a. How does Paul describe this wisdom? (verses 6-7) (What is it not? What is it?)
2. To whom does Paul impart it? (verse 6)
3. According to verse 11, who “comprehends the thoughts of God” [the Father]?
4. To whom are the “us” (verse 10) and “we” (verses 12 and 16) referring?
5. According to verse 12, what is one reason God has given us the Holy Spirit?

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6. In verse 7, Paul says that God's wisdom is secret and hidden (a mystery). What all does Paul say in this passage that lets us know that God's wisdom is not permanently secret and hidden?
7. In 1:21 Paul said that a person cannot come to know God through man's wisdom. According to this passage, how does one come to know God and His wisdom?

❖ Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-16 again.

8. Paul is continuing to contrast between the world's wisdom and God's wisdom. In the previous paragraphs he has talked about the message, the recipients, and himself as the speaker. In 2:6-16 he elaborates more specifically on God's wisdom. What new information does this passage tell us about God's wisdom?

9. In verses 14-15, what two categories of people does Paul describe?
 - a. What words from the previous lessons correspond to each of these categories?

 - b. What other words are we most likely to use today to refer to 'the natural person'?

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10. It is common to hear someone described as a 'spiritual person' in our culture today. When the world uses that phrase, what do they mean?

a. How does Paul define a 'spiritual person'?

11. According to verse 14, why can't the natural person understand and accept God's wisdom?

a. According to our previous lessons, what must happen to a natural person in order for him to become a spiritual person?

12. In verses 14-15, the words translated 'discerned' and 'judges/judged' in the ESV ('appraised/appraises' in the NASB) are all forms of the Greek word 'anakrino', which refers to examination, investigation, and evaluation. According to this passage, why can a spiritual person rightly evaluate "all things?"

a. In context, 'no one' in verse 15 is referring to natural persons. So then, why can't natural people rightly evaluate spiritual people?

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➤ Additional Reading:

13. Read Ephesians 2:11-3:12 and Colossians 1:24-28. According to these passages, what is “the secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory?”

14. At first, it can seem odd to read the phrase ‘for our glory’ in verse 7. Read Romans 8:16-17, 29-30; Philippians 3:20-21; and Colossians 3:4. What does Paul mean by ‘for our glory’?

❖ Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-16 again.

15. How does 2:16 relate to 1:10?

16. Why is it helpful for Paul to draw their attention to the necessity of the Holy Spirit as he begins to correct them?

17. Summarize 2:6-16 in one sentence.

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18. Now read 1:18-2:16 and summarize Paul's key points in one or two sentences.

19. Now look back at 1:1-17. How have the things you have studied in the last few weeks added depth to your understanding of Paul's opening words from the first few weeks?

20. What impact has spending these last few weeks contrasting the world's wisdom with God's wisdom had on you?

In preparation for Sunday, thank God for giving His Holy Spirit to His people so that we can understand the things of God.