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**1 Corinthians 1:17-25 (CSB)**  
 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ will not be emptied of its effect.

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**1 Corinthians 1:17-25 (CSB)**  
 18 For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but it is the power of God to us who are being saved.  
 19 For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and I will set aside the intelligence of the intelligent.”

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**1 Corinthians 1:17-25 (CSB)**

<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the debater of this age? Hasn't God made the world's wisdom foolish?

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**1 Corinthians 1:17-25 (CSB)**

<sup>21</sup> For since, in God's wisdom, the world did not know God through wisdom, God was pleased to save those who believe through the foolishness of what is preached.

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**1 Corinthians 1:17-25 (CSB)**

<sup>22</sup> For the Jews ask for signs and the Greeks seek wisdom,  
<sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles.

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**1 Corinthians 1:17-25 (CSB)**

<sup>24</sup> Yet to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God, <sup>25</sup> because God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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**1 Corinthians 1:18 (CSB)**

For the **word** of the cross is **foolishness** to those who are perishing, but it is the **power** of God to us who are being saved.

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Philosophy: the love of wisdom

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Logos

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**John 1:14 (CSB)**  
The **Word** became flesh and dwelt among us.

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**1 Corinthians 1:18 (CSB)**  
For the **word** of the cross is **foolishness** to those who are perishing, but it is the **power** of God to us who are being saved.

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“The cross was ‘a most cruel and disgusting punishment’...the very mention of the cross should be far removed not only from a Roman citizen’s body, but from his mind, his eyes, his ears.”

~ Cicero, Roman writer.

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**1 Corinthians 1:17 (CSB)**

For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—*not with eloquent wisdom*, so that the cross of Christ will not be *emptied of its effect*.

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We must not shy away from the offense of the cross by watering down its message.

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"It's a horrible idea that God, this paragon of wisdom and knowledge and power, couldn't think of a better way to forgive us our sins than to come down to Earth in his alter ego...

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as his son and have himself hideously tortured and executed so that he could forgive himself."  
~ Richard Dawkins,  
atheist biologist

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Jesus does not merely accept us as we are, rather, he saves us as we are.

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“A man can die of starvation knowing all about bread, and a man can remain spiritually dead while knowing all the historic facts of Christianity.”

~ AW Tozer

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Believing that a historical Jesus walked the earth is different than believing in a historical Jesus who made the earth and died to restore the earth.

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**1 Corinthians 1:18 (CSB)**

For the **word** of the cross is... the **power** of God to us who are being saved.

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“There is an invisible boundary between [God] and us, both with respect to his being and with respect to what we know. We cannot cross that boundary to know him savingly...

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He is not found in our deepest self. He is outside the range of our intuitive radar. In fact, we are alienated from him and shut out from his fellowship and knowledge. We cannot access him on our own terms and on our own timetable...

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No, it is he who must cross that boundary if we are to know him. The initiative must be his, and the timing his. And this he has done in Christ.”  
~ David F. Wells,  
*What is the Trinity*

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**Isaiah 55:8-9 (CSB)**

<sup>8</sup>“For **my thoughts are not your thoughts**, and your ways are not my ways.” This is the LORD’s declaration.  
<sup>9</sup>“For as heaven is higher than earth, so my ways are higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

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**1 Corinthians 2:14 (CSB)**

But the person **without the Spirit** does not receive what comes from God’s Spirit, because it is **foolishness** to him; he is not able to understand it since it is evaluated spiritually.

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**1 Corinthians 1:18-23 (CSB)**

<sup>18</sup> For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but it is the power of God to us who are being saved.  
<sup>19</sup> For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and I will set aside the intelligence of the intelligent.”

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**1 Corinthians 1:18-23 (CSB)**

<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the debater of this age? Hasn't God made the world's wisdom foolish?

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**1 Corinthians 1:18-23 (CSB)**

<sup>21</sup> For since, in God's wisdom, the world did not know God through wisdom, God was pleased to save those who believe through the foolishness of what is preached.

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**1 Corinthians 1:18-23 (CSB)**

<sup>22</sup> For the Jews ask for signs and the Greeks seek wisdom,  
<sup>23</sup> but we preach **Christ crucified**, a **stumbling block** to the Jews and **foolishness** to the Gentiles.

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"It is the audacity of it – the audacity of finding in a twisted and defeated corpse the glory of the creator of the universe – that serves to explain, more surely than anything else, the sheer strangeness of Christianity, and of the civilization to which it gave birth...

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All are heirs to the same revolution: a revolution that has, at its molten heart, the image of a god dead on a cross."  
~ Tom Holland  
*Dominion*

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**1 Corinthians 1:24-25 (CSB)**

<sup>24</sup> Yet to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God,  
<sup>25</sup> because God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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**1 Corinthians 1:26-29 (CSB)**

<sup>26</sup> Brothers and sisters, consider your calling: Not many were wise from a human perspective, not many powerful, not many of noble birth..

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34

**1 Corinthians 1:26-29 (CSB)**

<sup>27</sup> Instead, God has chosen what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen what is weak in the world to shame the strong.

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**1 Corinthians 1:26-29 (CSB)**

<sup>28</sup> God has chosen what is insignificant and despised in the world—what is viewed as nothing—to bring to nothing what is viewed as something,  
<sup>29</sup> so that no one may boast in his presence.

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"In the cross of Christ God has affirmed nothings and nobodies."  
~ L.L. Welborn

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'Twas battered and scarred,  
And the auctioneer thought it  
hardly worth his while  
To waste his time on the old violin,  
but he held it up with a smile.

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"What am I bid, good people", he cried,  
"Who starts the bidding for me?"  
"One dollar, one dollar, Do I hear two?"  
"Two dollars, who makes it three?"  
"Three dollars once, three dollars twice,  
going for three,"

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But, No,  
 From the room far back a gray bearded man  
 Came forward and picked up the bow,  
 Then wiping the dust from the old violin  
 And tightening up the strings,  
 He played a melody, pure and sweet  
 As sweet as the angel sings.

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The music ceased and the auctioneer  
 With a voice that was quiet and low,  
 Said "What now am I bid for this old violin?"  
 As he held it aloft with its' bow.

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"One thousand, one thousand,  
 Do I hear two?"  
 "Two thousand, Who makes it three?"  
 "Three thousand once, three thousand twice,  
 Going and gone", said he.

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The audience cheered,  
But some of them cried,  
"We just don't understand."  
"What changed its' worth?"  
Swift came the reply.  
"The Touch of the Masters Hand."

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"And many a man with life out of tune  
All battered and bruised with hardship  
Is auctioned cheap to a thoughtless crowd  
Much like that old violin

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A mess of pottage, a glass of wine,  
A game and he travels on.  
He is going once, he is going twice,  
He is going and almost gone.

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But the Master comes,  
And the foolish crowd never can  
quite understand,  
The worth of a soul and the change that  
is wrought  
By the Touch of the Masters' Hand.

~ Myra Brooks Welch

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**1 Corinthians 1:30-31 (CSB)**

<sup>30</sup> It is from him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom from God for us—our righteousness, sanctification, and redemption—  
<sup>31</sup> in order that, as it is written: ***Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.***

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**Matthew 26:26-30 (CSB)**

<sup>26</sup> As they were eating, Jesus took ***bread***, blessed and broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take and eat it; this is my body."

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**Matthew 26:26-30 (CSB)**

<sup>27</sup> Then he took a *cup*, and after giving thanks, he gave it to them and said, "Drink from it, all of you.

<sup>28</sup> For this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. you.

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**Matthew 26:26-30 (CSB)**

<sup>29</sup> But I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

<sup>28</sup> After *singing a hymn*, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

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