



Today, we continue our series through 1 Corinthians called *11 Dangers for Every Christian*. This week, Paul warns us about the Danger of Distraction—not simply being distracted by sinful things but allowing lesser things to draw our attention away from what matters most. As we study this passage, we will consider what it means to center our lives on Christ, trust in God's wisdom and power, and reorient our lives around His mission.

Key Passage: 1 Corinthians 1:18, 22-31; 2:1-5

Discussion Questions:

1. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18. What two responses to the message of the cross does Paul describe?

Paul says the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to those who are being saved it is God's power. The same gospel message can produce completely different responses, depending on how a person sees Christ. For the believer, the cross is not merely an important Christian idea; it is the center of our salvation and a demonstration of God's power.

Extra: Why do you think the message of the cross still sounds foolish to many people today?

2. Read 1 Corinthians 1:22–25. What were the Jews and Greeks seeking instead of simply receiving the message of Christ?

Paul says the Jews demanded signs, while the Greeks sought wisdom. Both groups wanted God to conform to their expectations—either through undeniable displays of power or through ideas that aligned with their own understanding of wisdom. Paul refuses to reshape the message and simply declares, “We preach Christ crucified.”

Extra: In what ways are people still tempted to make God prove Himself on their terms?

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Our team will partner with Take Hold Church to serve college students during Welcome Week at the University of Edinburgh. As students arrive on campus, form new friendships, and search for community, our team will help connect with them, support the local church, and open the door for gospel conversations.

3. Why does Paul describe Christ as both “the power of God” and “the wisdom of God”?

According to the world’s standards, the cross looked weak and foolish according to the standards of the world, but God accomplished salvation through it. What seemed like defeat was actually God’s victory over sin and death. Paul reminds us that God’s wisdom and power often look very different from what the world considers impressive or successful.

Extra: Where are you most tempted to trust your own wisdom instead of God’s?

4. Read 1 Corinthians 1:26–29. Why does Paul remind the Corinthians of their background when God called them?

Paul wants them to remember that their salvation was never based on their status, intelligence, influence, or strength. God deliberately works through people the world overlooks so that no one can boast in His presence. Remembering how completely we depend on grace should produce humility, not pride.

Extra: How does remembering that salvation is entirely by grace change the way we view ourselves and others?

5. According to 1 Corinthians 1:30, what has Christ become for those who belong to Him?

Paul says Christ has become our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. Everything we need spiritually is ultimately found in Him, not in our own ability or effort. The Christian life begins with Christ, continues through Him, and ultimately points back to Him.

Extra: Which of these words—wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, or redemption—stands out to you most right now? Why?

6. What does it mean for Christ to be our righteousness?

We do not become acceptable to God by accumulating enough good behavior to outweigh our sin. Through faith in Christ, His righteousness is credited to us as He bears the penalty for our sin. Our standing before God is therefore based on what Jesus has done, not on what we can accomplish.

Extra: Why is it sometimes difficult for Christians to stop trying to prove themselves to God?

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7. Read 1 Corinthians 1:31. What does it mean to “boast in the Lord”?

To boast in the Lord means recognizing that anything spiritually good in us ultimately comes from God. Instead of drawing attention to our abilities, accomplishments, knowledge, or influence, we point back to His grace and His work. A gospel-centered life becomes less about making much of us and more about making much of Jesus.

Extra: In what area are you tempted to seek recognition rather than give God the glory?

8. Read 1 Corinthians 2:1–5. What did Paul intentionally refuse to rely on when he preached in Corinth?

Paul says he did not rely on impressive speech, human wisdom, or his own ability to persuade. His message remained centered on “Jesus Christ and him crucified,” and he depended on the Spirit’s power. Paul wanted their faith to rest on God’s power rather than the messenger’s personality or skill.

Extra: Why is it dangerous when our faith becomes overly dependent on a particular pastor, teacher, or personality?

9. What does Paul’s statement, “I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified,” teach us about spiritual focus?

Paul was not saying that nothing else mattered, but that everything in his ministry ultimately centered on Jesus and the gospel. He refused to let secondary matters replace the primary message God had entrusted to him. The same principle challenges us to examine whether the center of our lives has become crowded with things that are good but not ultimate.

Extra: What good thing has the greatest potential to distract you from what matters most spiritually?

10. What would it look like for your life to be radically reoriented toward the mission of God?

A life centered on God’s mission goes beyond church attendance; it reshapes how we view our time, money, relationships, words, work, and priorities. Following Jesus means continually asking how every area of our lives can point people to Christ and participate in what God is doing. The danger of distraction is that we can live respectable Christian lives while slowly losing sight of the mission Jesus has given us.

Extra: What is one area of your life that may need to be reoriented toward the mission of God this week?

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