

1 Corinthians 2

1. How would you describe the difference between arrogance and confidence?

Paul is known as a bold and confident man of God. However, what admission does he make in verse 1?

What might keep you from proclaiming the testimony about God to others?

Can you think of people from history or from the present who sway people using eloquent speech or wisdom?

The world might see Paul's lack of eloquence as a weakness, but Paul does not. Why?

Paul states that a simple message is better than an eloquent one. Why?

According to verse 2, what was the simple message that Paul preached?

Read Romans 1:16. Why was this "simple" message so powerful?

2. What does it mean in verse 2 that Paul "resolved" to know nothing except Jesus Christ and Him crucified?

Why is this Paul's central message?

Do you believe this should remain the central message for the church? Please explain.

What is the message behind Jesus Christ and Him crucified?

3. Have you ever hesitated to engage another person about the Gospel because you did not feel qualified? If so, what happened?

In verse 3 Paul makes an amazing admission. What was it?

Have you ever felt inadequate when challenged to present the gospel? If so, what did you do?

In verse 4, Paul reveals that the gospel can be presented through wise and persuasive words. What is the danger of this method?

Can you think of examples where people have used "wise and persuasive words" to believe their messages?

Paul, however, states he never used such methods. Instead, what gave validity to his message about Jesus Christ?

What do you think Paul means when he says his message was accompanied by a demonstration of power?

Have you ever spoken God's word to someone and had that word accompanied by power? Please share.

Should we expect today's messages to be accompanied by such demonstrations of power? If so, can you give examples of such demonstrations? If not, why do you believe you have not?

4. In verse 5, Paul states that our faith should be based upon what?

What happens if we base our faith on men's wisdom?

Paul states that he speaks this message to those who are mature or perfect. He is speaking of those who have a relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Read John 4:24. What does Jesus mean that we are to worship God in spirit and truth?

Why do we need the Holy Spirit to help us mature in Christ?

What do you think could happen if a group of baby Christians gathered together to study Paul's letters?

How would define what it means to be a "mature" Christian?

How would you define wisdom?

Also, in verse 5 Paul writes that the wisdom and the rulers of this age are passing away. What does that mean to you?

5. Verse 7 speaks of God's secret wisdom. How do you react to the idea that God's wisdom is secret?

Some might find this idea that God keeps His wisdom a secret. What do you think Paul means by using the word "secret"?

According to verse 7, how old is this wisdom? Why has God hidden it?

6. Do you still see verse 8 as relevant to our world?

If so, what are the consequences?

Reread 1 Corinthians 1:26-28. Are you a "foolish" or "weak" thing?

If so, why has God chosen us?

Paul suggests that if the rulers of his world had understood God's wisdom, they would not have killed the Lord Jesus. What are the results we can see in this world because our rulers ignore this wisdom?

7. What does verse 9 mean to you?

Can you remember a time when you had eyes but could not see and ears but could not hear what God had and has planned for those who love him?

If so, what prevented you from seeing and hearing?

What happened to allow you to see and hear?

Verse 10 tells us that God reveals all that was once hidden by His Holy Spirit. Can you give an example when you experienced that revelation?

What does Paul tell us about the Spirit in verse 10?

Read Isaiah 55:8-9. What do these verses mean to you?

Paul tells us that there is a way we can understand God and His ways. What is the way? (See verse 11.)

8. How would you explain the difference between the spirit of the world and the Holy Spirit of God?

Why is it difficult for people who are led by the spirit of the world to understand the things of God?

Would you share some of the spiritual truths the Holy Spirit taught you after you came to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior?

9. According to verse 14, why are these spiritual truths taught by the Spirit foolishness to worldly people?

Can you remember a time when you thought the idea of sin, salvation, and Jesus' death were foolishness?

What part does faith play in our being able to discern spiritual truth?

How do you interpret verse 15?

Paul has shown that people of the world cannot understand those who are led by the Spirit. Therefore, they cannot "judge" people led by the Spirit. Do you agree?

So, Who judges the "spiritual" people to whom Paul refers?

Because the spiritual person is led by the Holy Spirit, Paul states that he or she is able to make judgments about all things. Notice, Paul uses the word "things" and not the word "people." Why?

Now that you have accepted Jesus Christ, do you find it easier to judge between right and wrong? Please explain,

Can you think of an example where people have felt they had the knowledge or understanding to "instruct" God?

Paul ends this chapter by asking, "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Who can instruct Him?" What is his answer?