

**Discussion Questions Set #1**

“We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we declare God’s wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.” (1 Corinthians 2:6-8)

“My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power.” (1 Corinthians 2:4-5)

1. Discuss how you understand the difference between worldly wisdom and wisdom as understood biblically. What are the key differences?
2. What do you think Paul means when he suggests that the wisdom of this age is coming to nothing? What does this suggest about our understanding of philosophy, rhetoric, and logic?
3. Why might it be significant that the message of Christ crucified is called a “hidden mystery” by Paul? How and why has this message been “hidden” from before time began?
4. Why is it significant that it is wisdom that has been hidden from humanity and not knowledge? What difference might this make in one’s following of Jesus?

**Discussion Questions Set #2**

“... the things God has prepared for those who love him—these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person’s thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.” (1 Corinthians 2:10-12)

“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.” (John 16:13)

In sermon, it was suggested that the Holy Spirit was sent to the church to provide knowledge – understanding about Christ crucified – and wisdom – skill in applying such knowledge within the life of the Christian community and that upon His arrival something incredibly new began within the world - the church was birthed - and a new distinction came into being – there were now those with the Spirit and those without the Spirit.

1. Christians often make a distinction between those who are saved and those who are not. What might does the distinction Paul makes between those with the Spirit and those without the Spirit add to our understanding of following Jesus? How might an increased acknowledgement of the Holy Spirit affect our understanding of wisdom?
2. Discuss the significance of the following statement: if you have accepted the message of Christ crucified, then you have the Spirit of God indwelling you for He has enabled such acceptance. If you have the Spirit of God indwelling you, then you have the mind of Christ.
3. Discuss the ideas that the Spirit provides knowledge – understanding about Christ crucified – and wisdom – skill in applying such knowledge within the life of the Christian community? How might these definitions differ from conventional understandings of knowledge and wisdom?

**Discussion Questions Set #3**

“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.” (James 3:13-16)

1. What difference does it make that wisdom is freely given to the people of God through the Spirit of God and is simply available for the asking?
2. Why do you think that a worldly view of wisdom – generally accompanied by envy and selfish ambition – leads to disorder and evil practices?
3. Discuss the idea that biblical wisdom is evidenced by a good life and humble deeds, rather than skill with persuasive words.