

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (February 13, 2022)

OPENING QUESTION:

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

READ 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

1. Paul asks the Corinthians to consider the type of person God calls or selects. Identify examples of God's actions towards what He values and what the world values from 1 Corinthians 1:26-28; 1 Samuel 2:1-8; Isaiah 61:1; Luke 1:51-52; John 9:39.

2. Just as the Gospel message and the messenger (Paul) were deemed foolish, believers in Corinth were considered foolish. Why has God selected ordinary foolish people to know Him?

3. An interesting comment on Paul's description of those called by God is given from Celsus, a pagan philosopher quoted by Origen (third century writer). "Their injunctions are like this. 'Let no one educated, no one wise, no one sensible draw near. For these abilities are thought by us to be evils. But as for anyone ignorant, anyone stupid, anyone uneducated, anyone who is a child, let him come boldly.' By the fact that they themselves admit that these people are worthy of their God, they show that they want and are able to convince only the foolish, dishonorable and stupid, and only slaves, women, and little children."

Do you find any truth in this comment? In what ways does this comment echo the world's perspective of Christianity today?

4. Scripture has much to say regarding boasting. Share what you find in 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Jeremiah 9:23-24; 1 Corinthians 4:7; 2 Corinthians 11:30; Ephesians 2:8-9; James 4:16.

5. “Paul now makes a huge contrast between ‘no flesh’ [human being] of verse 29 and Christian believers...Nobody stands ‘in the presence of God,’ either now or then, as *flesh*, as persons unaided and alone, but only ‘in Christ Jesus’. Those who are ‘in Christ’ are in the kingdom, for Christ is the king of God’s kingdom. How do people come to be ‘in Christ’? It is because they are ‘of God’, that is, by means of *God’s* ‘call’ or summons to them by ‘the word of the cross’. Here, though, there is the mystery that only some heed God’s call while others reject it. Why are Chloe, Crispus, Gaius, Stephanas, for example, believers while others in Corinth are not, despite having heard Paul preach ‘Christ crucified’? The answer is that their positive response was the outworking in time of God’s election of them before they were born (2 Thess. 2:13-15). This, too is what Paul means by ‘you are *of God* in Christ Jesus.’”
(1 Corinthians-Holiness and Hope of a Rescued People p. 39 by Paul Barnett)

Disclose your thoughts of how one is “in Christ” and what this means to you?

6. For those “in Christ”, define and comment on the terminologies of wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, redemption and their significance (1 Corinthians 1:30)?