

First

CORINTHIANS

CHRIST ALONE: TOGETHER



The Foolishness of God

**The cross appears as utter foolishness to most.
Why?**

The cross appears as utter foolishness to most.
Why?

Because it's God's plan.

1 Corinthians 1:18-19

18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. **19** For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Such a beautiful plan of God's love and salvation. Why are so many so opposed?

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

weakness of God is stronger than men. ²⁶ For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

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- 1) Because God put together a “foolish” plan.
 - It’s “foolish” to save people by having someone die.

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God's "foolish plan" – Jesus' death on the cross:

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- **A nobody**

God's "foolish plan" – Jesus' death on the cross:

- A nobody
- **Rejected by those He came to save**

God's "foolish plan" – Jesus' death on the cross:

- A nobody
- Rejected by those He came to save
- **Deserted by disciples**

God's "foolish plan" – Jesus' death on the cross:

- A nobody
- Rejected by those He came to save
- Deserted by disciples
- **Executed by legal authorities**

God's "foolish plan" – Jesus' death on the cross:

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- Rejected by those He came to save
- Deserted by disciples
- Executed by legal authorities
- **Powerless to save Himself**

God's "foolish plan" – Jesus' death on the cross:

- A nobody
- Rejected by those He came to save
- Deserted by disciples
- Executed by legal authorities
- Powerless to save Himself
- **Died**

Worldly “wise” plan:

Worldly “wise” plan:

- **Someone significant**

Worldly “wise” plan:

- Someone significant
- **Embraced by those saved**

Worldly “wise” plan:

- Someone significant
- Embraced by those saved
- **Adored by leaders**

Worldly “wise” plan:

- Someone significant
- Embraced by those saved
- Adored by leaders
- **Raised up by those in authority**

Worldly “wise” plan:

- Someone significant
- Embraced by those saved
- Adored by leaders
- Raised up by those in authority
- **Powerful in every context**

Worldly “wise” plan:

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- Adored by leaders
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- Powerful in every context
- **Win**

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 - It’s “foolish” to save people by having someone die.
 - It makes God happy to use a plan that appears “foolish” to “wise” people.

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

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Jews looking for signs – Miraculous demonstrations of God's power

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Greeks looking for wisdom – A Winner

God designed a plan that no human being would have ever thought of or implemented.

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- 1) Because God put together a “foolish” plan.
- 2) **Because God chose “foolish” people to whom to reveal His wisdom.**

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2) Because God chose “foolish” people to whom to reveal His wisdom.

- **God reveals the wisdom of His “foolish” plan to some.**

1 Corinthians 1:18-29

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- **Those who recognize the wisdom of God’s “foolish” plan celebrate the benefits of His love.**

1 Corinthians 1:26-30

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- Those who recognize the wisdom of God’s “foolish” plan celebrate the benefits of His love.
- **Those who embrace the wisdom of God in His “foolish” plan wholeheartedly, unreservedly boast only in Jesus.**

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By God's standards...

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- **His followers are fools to whom He has revealed His wisdom and love.**

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- **Let's be thoughtful, articulate and wise in our sharing the great news of the cross with others.**

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- **Let's ask God to reveal the wisdom of the cross to those with whom we are sharing it.**

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- **Let's praise, celebrate and thank God for revealing the wisdom of the cross to us.**

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- Let's ask God to reveal the wisdom of the cross to those with whom we are sharing it.
- Let's praise, celebrate and thank God for revealing the wisdom of the cross to us.
- **Let's boast in Jesus. Always. Only.**