



**CORNERSTONE  
CHURCH**

**Church Gone Wild: Week 2  
Jesus & Spirituality  
1 Corinthians 2  
Pastor Derek Vreeland**

**Talking about Jesus**

**1 Corinthians 2:1**

Paul is talking about his style of communication when he was planting the church in Corinth. When he proclaimed the “testimony of God,” the story of Jesus, he did not try to impress them with “lofty” or eloquent speech and wisdom like the Greek philosophers of Corinth.

**1 Corinthians 2:2**

In 1:23, Paul said the Greeks think this message is folly (silliness). It seemed silly because Christ means “King,” not just a civic and political king, but a military king. Crucifixion was the ultimate sign of defeat and ridicule.

Roman crucifixion was known to be torturous and cruel.  
The English word “excruciating” comes from a Latin word meaning “from the cross.”

Roman crucifixion was also known to be humiliating.  
The crucified people would have been stripped naked and nails driven through their hands and feet and many times even their genitals. Their feet would often be nailed to the side of the vertical post to twist and contort their body. After being nailed to the wood, the crucified person would be lifted up, their feet only a few feet off the ground. As crucifixion was most often done in a public place, the crucified person was left to die in a horrific, vulnerable and exposed position.

It seemed like pure silliness to the Greeks that Jesus could be the King of kings and Lord of lords and yet die such a miserable death.

Nevertheless, this is the central part of the Christian message.  
Jesus lived the life we should have lived, a life free of sin.  
Jesus died the death we should have died, the death for sin.

Jesus became our substitute.  
He took on the sin that we willingly committed.  
He took the wrath and judgment of God that we deserved.  
He took all the pain, suffering and hell that we deserve so that we could be forgiven, free from sin, fully human—living life the way God designed.

Paul said, “I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus the King and him crucified.” There is more to the Jesus story, but this is where it starts.

This message is the good news.  
It isn't good advice or wisdom. All religions offer good advice.  
Advice is wise words that help us make decisions about things happening in the future.  
News is historical facts about something that has already happened that we can do nothing about except to respond.

### **1 Corinthians 2:3-4**

Paul again makes it clear. When he is talking about Jesus it is not in the wisdom of words or the words of wisdom like the Greek philosophers.

He says, "MY speech and MY words were given in a demonstration of the Spirit and power." He wasn't talking about the power of miracles and dramatic healings, what the book of Acts calls "signs and wonders." It was the power of the Spirit to transform the human heart.

### **1 Corinthians 2:5**

The reason we avoid eloquent-sounding preaching is not that we don't care how we put our words together when talking about Jesus. We just don't want people's faith to be in human ability, but in God's ability.

### **Christian Wisdom**

#### **1 Corinthians 2:6**

Paul had been dogging wisdom up to this point, but he says there is a kind of Christian wisdom, but it is for the mature. The cross is the doorway to a life with Jesus, but as you grow into your relationship with Jesus there is a certain kind of wisdom, waiting for you.

#### **1 Corinthians 2:7-8**

Christian wisdom was hidden from the Greek philosophers, Roman politicians and Jewish religious leaders.

### **Wisdom as spirituality**

#### **1 Corinthians 2:9-10**

Spirituality from a Christian perspective is a way of living life in, with, and by the Holy Spirit. There is no reference to spirituality in the New Testament apart from the Holy Spirit.

Spirituality is a key in understanding one of the Corinthians' primary questions that Paul answers in his letter. Their question is: "What does it mean to be a spiritual person?" Spirituality includes wisdom, but not the wisdom of the rock star-esque Greek philosophers. It is a wisdom coming from the Holy Spirit.

#### **1 Corinthians 2:11**

The Holy Spirit knows the thoughts of God because the Holy Spirit is God.

We believe...in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified... (Nicene Creed 381 AD)

The Holy Spirit is not merely the bond of love between the Father and Son. He is a power or energy from God. He is God himself. He is God's agent on the earth. All those

who make Jesus the Lord and boss of their life receive the Holy Spirit to live in their hearts.

### **1 Corinthians 2:12**

God the Father sends God the Son (Jesus) who immerses people into a life in the Spirit. This is true spirituality. The Spirit comes so that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

God gives us:

A new life (Romans 6:23)

A new identity (Galatians 4:7)

A new family (Mark 10:29-30)

A new hope (Colossians 1:27)

His grace (1 Corinthians 1:4)

His peace (Philippians 4:6-7)

His love (Romans 5:5)

His word (1 Peter 2:23)

Unspeakable joy (John 15:11)

Unshakable faith (Romans 12:3)

Unreturnable gifts (Romans 11:29)

Undeniable promises (2 Peter 1:4)

If you do not understand these things you have been freely given, you need a new kind of spirituality. You need a spirituality where you live connected to the Holy Spirit through spiritual reading, meditation, community and prayer.

### **1 Corinthians 2:13**

The Spirit gives the evidence (v. 4) and the Spirit is the means by which Paul preached his message. Paul's preaching was an overflow of his spirituality, of his life lived in the Holy Spirit.

ESV: interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual

NIV: expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words

Therefore a person's spirituality dictates their ability to understand. A person must be walking in the Spirit in order to understand what the Spirit is saying.

1 Corinthians 2:14

A "natural person" refers to anyone who lacks a vital Christian spirituality. This person could be someone who is not a Christian. It could be a Christian who is riding the train to heaven, but hasn't begun to walk in the Spirit, which is the true measure of Christian spirituality.

If you are not walking in the Spirit, you will not understand all these things that God gives us through the Holy Spirit.

### **1 Corinthians 2:15-16**

A spiritual person, a person walking in the Spirit, can make judgments about all things regarding truth and error, right and wrong.

A spiritual person cannot be judged by anyone, particularly those who are NOT walking in the Spirit.

“The profane person cannot understand holiness, but the holy person can well understand the depths of evil.” (Gordon Fee)

The mind of the Lord is bigger, deeper and wider than we could ever figure out. For those who adopt Christian spirituality, who walk in the Spirit, they allow the Holy Spirit produce within them the mind of Jesus.

The mind of Jesus is a part of our transformation. The Holy Spirit works to reconstruct our minds so that we think like Jesus, see other people like Jesus and understand truth like Jesus.

This process of transformation is a kind of spirituality incorporating the spiritual disciplines of (1) spiritual reading, (2) meditation, (3) community and (4) prayer.