

Text: 1 Corinthians 1:18-21
Topic: Wisdom. Conflict.
Study: First Corinthians
Week: 10
Series: 1 of 5

Focal Point Radio Ministries
Aug. 31 & Sept. 1, 2002
Message # 02-24
Pastor Mike

Head Games ^{part 1}

Understanding the Ultimate Battle of Wits



1. Wake _____ (v.18)

2. Realize _____ (v.19-21a)

3. Boldly _____ (v.21b)

1 Cor. 1:18-21

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness 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; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."²⁰ Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. (NIV)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's message. It is also helpful to discuss your answers with others. This can take place with friends, your family, accountability partners, or ministry groups within the church.

1. How have you minimized or simply underestimated the "clash of ideas" that exists between Christianity and the world?
2. What conflicts have you encountered in trying to maintain and uphold a "God-centered" gospel in a culture of "man-centered" religions?
3. In what ways have you been tempted to make Christianity more palatable? To whom, and in what situations have you done this?

Describe a recent situation in which you saw (or perhaps participated in) a presentation of the "cross" which was in some way "emptied of its power" (cf. 1 Corinthians 1:17b).

4. Read Romans 1:16. To what extent do you share Paul's boldness? Why do you think you are not more courageous in standing on the truth that God has revealed?
5. In what setting this week do you think God is calling you to make a countercultural stand for truth?

We are reading through the Bible in a year! Here is this week's schedule.

Sunday

Is. 7-8 & 1Cor. 3

Monday

Is. 9-10 & 1Cor. 4

Tuesday

Is. 11-12 & 1Cor. 5

Wednesday

Is. 13-14 & 1Cor. 6

Thursday

Is. 15-16 & 1Cor. 7

Friday

Is. 17-18 & 1Cor. 8

Saturday

Is. 19-20 & 1Cor. 9

Here are some resources to help you understand the clash of ideas that are a part of daily life for biblical Christians.

- Beckwith, Francis and Greg Koukl. **Relativism: Feet Firmly Planted in Mid-air**. Baker Books, 1998.
- Carson, D. A. **The Gagging of God: Christianity Confronts Pluralism**. Zondervan, 1996.
- Craig, William Lane. **Reasonable Faith: Christian Truth and Apologetics**. Crossway Books, 1984.
- Lewis, C. S. **Mere Christianity**. Macmillan Publishing, 1943.
- MacArthur, John. **Nothing But the Truth: Upholding the Gospel in a Doubting Age**. Crossway Books, 1999.
- Machen, J. Gresham. **The Christian View of Man**. Banner of Truth, 1937.
- Nash, Ronald H. **Worldviews in Conflict: Choosing Christianity in a World of Ideas**. Zondervan, 1992.
- Schaeffer, Francis. **Escape From Reason**. InterVarsity, 1968.
- _____. **The God Who is There: Speaking Historic Christianity into the 20th Century**. InterVarsity, 1968.
- Sire, James W. **Chris Chrisman Goes to College... and Faces the Challenges of Relativism, Individualism and Pluralism**. InterVarsity, 1993.
- Venning, Ralph. **The Sinfulness of Sin**. Reprint. Banner of Truth, 1997.
- White, Jerry. **Choosing Plan A in a Plan B World: Living Out the Lordship of Christ**. NavPress, 1987.
- Zacharias, Ravi. **Jesus Among Other Gods: The Absolute Claims of the Christian Message**. Word Publishing, 2000.