



GOSPEL | COMMUNITY | MISSION

**October 29, 2023**

**1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5**

**“Christ Crucified: God’s Power and Wisdom”**

## QUESTIONS

*(potential discussion/conversation questions to use in your GGs this week)*

1. Tony opened his sermon with a story to illustrate that human eloquence or intellect to defend one's faith pales in comparison to the person and power of Jesus Christ. When have you felt the temptation to rely on your abilities or intellect to talk about or defend your faith?
2. As we have started the book of 1 Corinthians the past 2 weeks we have gotten a glimpse into the highly philosophical, gifted society of Corinth that has contributed to the city's proclivity towards sin and struggle with faith. In what ways is our current culture and context in the "educated, first-century West" similar to that of Corinth?
  - a. How have these similarities contributed to your personal struggle with sin and faith?
3. Similar to today, there were many polarizing topics in the ancient world. What is the division that Paul cares most about and focuses on communicating in this section of text? (Answer: Those perishing vs. those being saved)
  - a. Remembering back to the passage we studied last week, which divisions do you find most polarizing in today's context?
  - b. How is the division established by the Cross **more important and dangerous** than those referenced above?
4. Tony argues that the paradox found in **power** of the Cross directly correlates with the paradox pertaining to the **people** of the Cross. Why does God choose and pursue the weak and lowly to be his agents of heart transformation (vs 29)?
  - a. How has God used the humility and awe that comes with receiving the gospel to be a witness to unbelieving people in your surrounding communities?
5. This section closes with Paul's admission that his speaking and presence is unimpressive. Why would this have been such a big deal for the people of Corinth to grapple with?
  - a. As followers of Christ, how can we as a group encourage one another towards confidence and clarity in our proclamation of the message of Jesus to others without overemphasizing "lofty speech or wisdom?"
  - b. In what ways could a posture of **awe** and **reverence** for God in our proclamation of His Truth help us to cross societal barriers and grow to know people who are different from us (culturally, socially, economically, generationally, racially, etc.)?