

# Sermon Reflections

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## *"The Foolish Cross" (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)*

**Summary:** Wisely reject the world's wisdom, and together cling to the "foolish" cross.

The cross demands that you choose a side. The cross must be central to what God's people rally around.

### 1. The cross determines man's destiny (v. 18)

- The cross is the watershed, the dividing line, between the saved and the damned. The message about the cross is the good news of the gospel. The cross is "folly" to those that are perishing.
- In the Greek, the cross is "moronic". Romans created the cross, but don't like mentioning it. Others didn't just have disbelief in the cross, but reviled the thought of it. The Messiah was hung on a tree and he couldn't even save himself? In today's world, how could you respond to arguments like this?
- For those who believe in the cross, it is the power of love, the power of the almighty God at work. He gave His most beloved Son to you! Knowing that the power of the Gospel message doesn't rely on you, how more willing are you to go out and share the good news?

### 2. The cross humiliates man's wisdom (vv. 19-21)

- Paul is quoting Isaiah 29:14 here. God is intent on taking down man's wisdom, to expose the folly of arrogance. God has made it so the world could not know Him on their own terms. We have to think like God and not branch out on our own wisdom.
  - Be skeptical of the skeptics, they have an agenda. From Ephesians 2 we know they are dead set on opposing God.
  - Fill your mind with wisdom, not folly. Romans 12 tells us to be transformed by the renewal of our mind. What kind of things are you filling your mind with today that are influencing your walk?
  - Have brothers and sisters walking together, pointing each other back to Christ. How are you living this out in your life? Are you putting your kids in front of others that are going to speak wisdom into them? Are you pointing others to Christ?

### 3. The cross defies man's expectations (vv. 22-25)

- We might be asking or looking for one thing, but the cross defies all that. We explain it away. We preach Christ crucified, it's not what they wanted. Regardless of what they think they want, Paul is going to give them Christ Jesus on a cross.
- God can judge sin at the cross and deliver mercy to all those who believe. Both are only achieved at the cross. It looks like defeat to the world, but is great victory. Read Ephesians 2:16, the cross draws us to God and unites the people. How can you use the message of the cross to unite or solidify your relationships with other believers?