

God's Nonsense

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: I Corinthians 1:18-25.

B. Divisions within the congregation were causing the church to split apart.

II. The cure to divisiveness among Christians is the gospel.

A. The gospel is not just for nonbelievers.

B. The heart of the gospel is the cross.

1. The cross is likened to an electric chair today.

2. The cross was needed because the word of the cross was the cure to all human division.

3. The cross exposes the fundamental conflicts of life.

4. When you confront the cross, you expose yourself as committed to error or truth.

C. The word of the cross.

1. It is a fact of history.

2. The cross makes a judgment on all human life—it casts aside all our good efforts as having merit apart from God.

3. Reactions.

a. It is silliness to those who are perishing

b. It is the way to experience healing, wholeness, peace and joy.

III. The wisdom of the world versus the wisdom of God.

A. Degrees in wisdom do have some value, but human wisdom gives no value.

B. The pursuit of knowledge is not contrary to wisdom; wisdom is the use of truth.

C. Human wisdom when it is all over changes nothing.

IV. God's answer to wisdom's inability to change: Christ crucified.

A. Man cannot accomplish his own salvation.

B. God has changed men from the most evil reputations.

Application questions:

1. How does wisdom relate to God's revelation?

2. Why is it that the cross is the answer for divisiveness in the church?

3. Where have you seen the power of the cross in regards to divisions? How can you pray for that power to come about?
