


A STUDY OF 1 CORINTHIANS

1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5

# THE WISDOM OF THE CROSS



The background features a collage of geometric shapes and patterns. On the left, there is a circular element with blue and white diagonal stripes. On the right, there is a circular element with green and white diagonal stripes. The central area is a large, light cream-colored rectangle containing the text. The overall aesthetic is modern and minimalist.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,  
and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

PROVERBS 9:10 NIV



# THE WISDOM OF THE CROSS

Wisdom and the Cross  
Wisdom and the Corinthians  
Wisdom and Paul

## 1 Corinthians 1:18-20 <sup>NIV</sup>

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. <sup>19</sup> For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;  
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”

<sup>20</sup> Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?



An abstract sculpture of a cross, rendered in dark, flowing, ribbon-like material. The cross is formed by two interlocking loops that create a sense of movement and depth. The background is a light, textured wall.

# THE WISDOM OF THE CROSS

Wisdom and the Cross

Wisdom and the Corinthians

Wisdom and Paul

## 1 Corinthians 1:21-25 <sup>NIV</sup>

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. <sup>22</sup> Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.





# THE WISDOM OF THE CROSS

Wisdom and the Cross  
Wisdom and the Corinthians  
Wisdom and Paul

## 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 <sup>NIV</sup>

Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. <sup>28</sup> God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one may boast before him. <sup>30</sup> It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. <sup>31</sup> Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”





# THE WISDOM OF THE CROSS

Wisdom and the Cross  
Wisdom and the Corinthians  
Wisdom and Paul

## 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 <sup>NIV</sup>

And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. <sup>2</sup>For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. <sup>4</sup>My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, <sup>5</sup>so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.



## LIFE SHAPED BY THE CROSS

### 1 John 4:9-11 <sup>NIV</sup>

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

## LIFE SHAPED BY THE CROSS

### Ephesians 5:25-28 <sup>NIV</sup>

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.



## LIFE SHAPED BY THE CROSS

### 1 Corinthians 8:9-13 <sup>NIV</sup>

Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup> For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol's temple, won't that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup> So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. <sup>12</sup> When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup> Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.

## LIFE SHAPED BY THE CROSS

### Galatians 2:19-21 <sup>NIV</sup>

“For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. <sup>20</sup> I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. <sup>21</sup> I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”