

## Compelling

It brings interest, attention, or admiration  
in a powerfully irresistible way

**What is compelling in society today?**

**What if "what people value highly  
is detestable in God's sight"? *Luke 16:15***

1

## Christ Crucified

1 Corinthians 1-2

[ref.ly/1Co1;niv](https://ref.ly/1Co1;niv)



2

## What was “compelling” in Corinth?

- Powerful speakers!
- Philosophy, “Wisdom”
- Honor and followers
- Miracles

In the church too

**Read 1 Corinthians 1:18 and following**

Contrast the **cross** with **their values**

3

<sup>18</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**?

<sup>21</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.**

4

<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 cross

5

<sup>26</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.

We contribute nothing to our salvation

6

<sup>30</sup> It is because of [God] 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.”

7

<sup>2:1</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.

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## The Cross

“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.”

1 Corinthians 1:18

“For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except **Jesus Christ and him crucified**”

1 Corinthians 2:2

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## The Cross

**Jews demand signs** and **Greeks look for wisdom** but we preach **Christ crucified** a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ **the power of God** and **the wisdom of God**. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.”

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

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<sup>6</sup> We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. <sup>7</sup> No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. <sup>8</sup> None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup> However, as it is written:

11

“What no eye has seen,  
what no ear has heard,  
and what no human mind has conceived”—  
the things God has prepared  
for those who love him—  
<sup>10</sup> these are the things God has revealed to us by  
his Spirit.

12

The **Spirit** searches all things, even the deep things of God. <sup>11</sup> For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the **Spirit** of God. <sup>12</sup> What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the **Spirit** who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. <sup>13</sup> This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the **Spirit**, explaining spiritual realities with **Spirit-taught** words.

**The Spirit reveals God's plan in the cross**

13

<sup>14</sup> The person without the **Spirit** does not accept the things that come from the **Spirit** of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the **Spirit**. <sup>15</sup> The person with the **Spirit** makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, <sup>16</sup> for, "Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

**Only by the Spirit can we accept the cross**

14

## The Big Idea

We can only understand and embrace God's Gospel  
– which is the Cross of Christ –  
by the Spirit's work in us

15

## Embrace the Cross!

### 1) We are saved by Christ's sacrifice alone

- Know the total failure of our efforts or character or ... to please God or gain salvation
- **We add nothing!**

16



## **Embrace the Cross!**

1) We are saved by Christ's sacrifice alone

2) **We are called to take up our cross**

What if the cross is not just how Jesus saves us,  
but how He works with everyone He loves?

17

## **Embrace the Cross!**

1) We are saved by Christ's sacrifice alone

2) We are called to take up our cross

3) **Which we can only accept and do by the Spirit**

18



19

## Embrace the Cross!

- 1) We are saved by Christ's sacrifice alone
- 2) We are called to take up our cross
- 3) Which we can only understand and embrace by the Spirit
  - The Gospel and the Spirit are not:
    - Something we add to life
    - Something to help us live a better life
  - Rather:
    - We swim in the ocean of the Spirit

**We need His transforming work daily**

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## Being Filled by the Spirit

- **Confess and repent** (pursue transformation)
  - Where we aren't embracing the Cross
  - Otherwise: the Cross "is emptied of its power"
- **Ask Jesus to fill us with and by the Spirit**
  - To understand and embrace the Cross
  - To have the Spirit's power to seek God's values rather than human values
- **Follow Jesus**
  - ***The Cross is the power of God***

21

## HOLY SPIRIT

A person

Who is God

Given to all believers

We are commanded to be filled by the Spirit  
so that He empowers us

**to embrace the cross and to live like Christ**

22

## HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that God the Holy Spirit empowers and guides His church through the Bible and through His presence among us.

- While we have structures that help make us orderly (1 Corinthians 14:26-33), our ultimate hope is in the work of the Holy Spirit among us (Acts 1:8; 6:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:5).

23

The Spirit searches all things,  
even the deep things of God  
so that we may understand  
what God has freely given us in the Cross.

24

## The Big Idea

We can only understand God's Gospel,  
which is the Cross of Christ,  
by the Spirit's work in us

25



26

For I resolved to know nothing  
while I was with you  
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1 COR 2:2