

Christ Crucified

1 Corinthians 1-2



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

What was “compelling” in Corinth?

Powerful speakers! / Philosophy, “Wisdom” / Honor and followers / Miracles
In the church too

1 Corinthians 1:18-2:16

1:18-21

1:22-25: “foolishness and weakness of God” = the cross

1:26-31: We contribute nothing to our salvation

2:1-5: The cross

A stumbling block to Jews, and foolishness to Gentiles
The power of God that saves us

2:6-10a

2:10b-13: The Spirit reveals God’s plan in the cross

2:14-16: Only by the Spirit can we accept the cross



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

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!

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?

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



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

The 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

Core Value: 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).

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.

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. What does "the cross of Christ" mean, both for becoming a Christian, and for living as a Christian?
2. In what way is the cross of Christ foolishness from a 'natural' perspective?
3. What makes it challenging for us to understand and embrace the cross of Christ?
4. In what way is being filled with the Spirit more like diving into a lake than carrying a bottle of water?
5. What does it look like in our lives today to embrace the cross of Christ?

Conversation starter this week

The Cross is a central symbol in Christianity. From your perspective, what does it mean? What is its significance?