

1Corinthians – Week 11

I. Review

A. 1Cor. 2:6-11

- i. The word of the cross that imparts wisdom is...
 1. Cross-centered: it's based on the revealed mystery of Christ (2:6-9)!
 2. Eternal: it does not pass away like man's wisdom (2:6)!
 3. Beneficial: it is for our glorification (2:7)!
 4. Supernatural: it is not understood by natural man (2:8-9)!
 5. Spirit-directed: it comes from God's Spirit, not man (2:10-11)!

II. The word of the cross that imparts wisdom is Spirit-directed (Part 2)...

A. 1Cor. 2:12 (ESV), "*Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.*"

- i. "*Now we have received...the Spirit who is from God*"
 1. As in verse 10, the pronoun "*we*" chiefly refers to the apostles and prophets, through whom the Holy Spirit has revealed the mystery of Christ (cf. Eph. 3:5).
 2. It applies to all Christians in that, by reading/hearing the Word of God, we might gain insight into the mystery of Christ (cf. Eph. 3:4).
- ii. In the context, "*the spirit of the world*" refers to "human wisdom" (as the next verse will point out).
- iii. "*That we might understand the things freely given us by God*"
 1. Examples:
 - a. Salvation, justification and sanctification through Christ
 - b. Family life:
 - i. The role of a Christian husband/wife/mother/father/child
 - c. Work life:
 - i. The role of a Christian boss/employee
 - d. Personal life:
 - i. Holiness
 - ii. Goodness (impacting others in a positive way)
 - e. Worship

B. 1Cor. 2:13 (ESV), "*And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.*"

- i. Again, "*we impart this*" refers to the inspired apostles and prophets.
 1. In other words, the believer understands the things of God through the words of the apostles and prophets (cf. Acts 2:42).
- ii. Paul's point is that the Christian's views of truth do not come through the art of elocution, but by the message of the Holy Spirit.
- iii. Christians are influenced by the teachings of the Holy Spirit.
- iv. The world, on the other hand, is influenced by eloquent speech and anything that indulges the senses.

C. 1Cor. 2:14 (ESV), "*The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.*"

- i. Christians should not be surprised at the world's response to Christian doctrine and lifestyle.
 1. The natural person is governed by his feelings, moods, urges, needs and desires.
 2. He relies on his own reasoning to determine what is right and wrong.
- ii. As Christians, we are called to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us (Matthew 5:44)
 1. In Luke 6:27, He goes on to say, "*...do good to those who hate you*"

- iii. By the way...
 - 1. Statements like “*love your enemy*” and “*do good to those who hate you*” – to the natural person -- are considered foolishness statements!
 - 2. But to the spiritual person, these statements reflect divine wisdom and truth!
- iv. Remember that the unspiritual person is not Spirit-led.
 - 1. What are we to expect from unspiritual men? Godly behavior?
- v. As Christians, we are not called to
- D. 1Cor. 2:15 (ESV), “*The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one.*”
 - i. Today, the term “spiritual” is misused:
 - 1. People who consider themselves “spiritual” are those who embrace Eastern mysticism (Yoga, Buddhism, etc.) or New Age philosophy.
 - 2. But Paul uses the term here to mean those in Christ, particularly, the mature Christian.
 - 3. Keep in mind, from verse 6 until now, Paul is speaking of the mature in Christ.
 - ii. “*The spiritual person judges all things*”
 - 1. The term “judges” is synonymous to “appraises”
 - a. To appraise means to set a value on something
 - b. In the Art world:
 - i. An appraiser is paid a high salary because of their ability to spot the real value of a piece of art.
 - 2. The spiritual (mature) person is able to appraise things as spiritually beneficial or detrimental.
 - a. In other words, a mature Christian has discernment.
 - i. This affects his decisions and values.
 - b. For example:
 - i. A young (or immature) Christian may not be able to discern whether a certain career choice (or a certain relationship) is beneficial or detrimental to their spiritual well-being – heart-led.
 - ii. A mature Christian is able to discern whether something is spiritually good or bad – Spirit-led.
 - iii. “*But is himself to be judged by no one*”
 - 1. This phrase is not saying that Christians is not to be judged by other Christians:
 - a. Paul tells believers to judge those who are disobedient in their midst (5:3-5).
 - b. He also tells the believers to examine (or judge) what was being said by those who claim to bring words from the Lord (14:26).
 - 2. What Paul is saying is that a natural person cannot properly appraise a spiritual person, since he himself does not value the things of God.
 - a. For example, a natural person may call a spiritual person “an idiot” for believing that Jesus is the only way to God or that homosexuality is detrimental to society.
- E. Paul closes out this chapter with a dramatic statement from Isaiah 40:13...
 - i. 1Cor. 2:16 (ESV), “*For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.*”
 - 1. In other words, a natural person cannot understand the mind of the Lord, unless the Spirit, who knows the depths of God, reveals it to him (cf. 2:11)!
 - a. It’s sad how so many people “think” they know the mind of God yet do not read or follow the Word of God!
 - 2. Even though it is true that all Christians have “*the mind of Christ*” by virtue of being “*in Christ*,” every Christian is to adopt that mindset in all aspects of life – that is, every disciple is called to mature in Christ (cf. Ephesians 4:13)!