

5. God Only Wise

Some interesting facts: in 2003 in the United States 73% of white students owned their computer, while only 33% of black students owned their own computer. 2 out of 3 people in the UK accessed the internet, but only 1 in 250 Africans could access the internet.

We live in a time where the knowledge of information delivers power to those who possess it. This power delivers wealth and material advantage. For example, those with easy access to education and technology, particularly electronic technology, computers and the internet, are dubbed 'the information rich' and tend to set themselves apart from 'the information poor'. Their knowledge has given them a great advantage.

Discussion Starter:

What do you think is the difference between knowledge and wisdom?

How do you respond to the scholars, know-it-alls and 'wise' people who say that Christianity is stupid?

Read I Corinthians 1:18-2:10

1. In verse 1 Cor 1:21 we are told that the world does not come to know God through wisdom. According to verses 18-25, how then does the world come to know God?
2. In what sense is the gospel foolishness and in what sense is it wisdom?

The Character of God: Study 5

3. What are the implications of God not being known through human wisdom in verses 26–31? How is God's wisdom shown in this?
4. In 1 Cor 2:1–5 Paul describes his own visit to the Corinthians to announce God's gospel. What was his approach and why?
5. How might we apply the same principle in our lives when talking to others?
6. [optional: for the advanced!] In 1 Cor 2:6–10 we see that Paul brought the message of Christ to the Corinthians with straightforward simplicity. However, the message itself is neither simplistic nor obvious. What is it that, in the words of Isaiah 64:4, that God unexpectedly prepared for those who love him?
7. If God's wisdom is beyond our natural human knowing, how is it that we are able to grasp hold of the gospel? (2:10)
8. What has this passage taught us about God's wisdom and about our human wisdom?
9. How does this passage teach us to respond to those who say that Christianity is stupid, a joke, or a crutch for the weak?
10. [optional] How does one become wise on God's terms?