




1 **What goes through your mind when you have an opportunity to talk to an unbeliever about your faith?**¹

 *What was Paul's unexpected strategy in sharing the gospel?*


 *How did the Corinthians expect the gospel to be packaged and how does that compare or contrast with how people today expect it to be packaged?*


2 **In what ways do people today regard Christianity as foolish?** Why do some people stumble over or laugh at the message of the cross?

 *Will the Christian message ever sound impressive to the world? Why or why not?*²

 *What implications does that have on your own walk with the Lord and witness for Him?*

3 **The divisions in the church at Corinth indicated a root of pride.** What did Paul say in 1 Corinthians 1 to counteract the members' haughtiness? What kind of people did the church of Corinth consist of?

 *Why did God choose such an unlikely bunch?*

 *If you are a follower of Jesus, think for a moment about God's work in your life. How does remembering God's choosing of believers (or election) encourage or challenge you?*

¹ Adapted from Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Wise: 1 Corinthians* (Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 1982), 45.
² Adapted from Mark Dever, *1 Corinthians 1-9: Challenging Church* (The Good Book Company, 2012), 14.

4 What aspect of the cross moves you the most and why?

♥ In what ways has your behavior been shaped by the cross (even if you didn't notice it at the time)?

🔊 How might the influence of the cross (or lack thereof) in culture be helpful in communicating the gospel?

5 Think of the temptation to overvalue the wisdom of the world. What are some of the reasons that it is a foolish thing to hope in and rely on?

♥ When are you most tempted to rely on worldly wisdom or human eloquence?

♥ What would it look like for you to resolve to "know nothing except Jesus Christ and him crucified?"

6 Someone once said, "What you win people with is what you win them to." Why is that statement important for us to consider when we think about the church?

⚙️ Paul was cautious about rhetorical eloquence or philosophical wisdom being the magnet for peoples' hearts. What are some of the dangerous means used today to attract others to the gospel?³

🗨️ What would it look like for us to be more concerned about adherence to the message of the cross than the attractiveness of our message to the world?⁴

PRAYER REQUESTS

3 Questions 1-4 were adapted from Andrew Wilson, 1 Corinthians For You (The Good Book Company, 2021), 18, 24-25, 31.
4 Adapted from Preben Vang, 1 Corinthians, TTCS (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2014), 37.