

## Unity: The Cross of Christ

1:17-2:5 (ESV)

**THESIS: I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. (I Corinthians 1:10 ESV)**

### 1. THE CRUCIFIED CHRIST IN THE LIFE OF ISRAEL (1:17-19 ESV)

For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the **cross of Christ** be emptied of its power. For the **word** (*logos*) of the cross is **folly** (*moronic*) to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” (Isaiah 29:14)

- Satan: Crushed his head (Genesis 3:15 ESV)
- Adam and Eve: Clothed with animal skins (Genesis 3:20-21)
- Cain and Abel: Sacrifice of firstborn of his flock (Genesis 4:2-5)
- Noah: Burnt offerings (Genesis 9:20-22)
- Abraham: Covenant offering (Genesis 15:7-11)
- Abraham: Circumcision (Genesis 17:9-14)
- Abraham: Offering of Isaac (Genesis 22:9-14)
- Joseph: Enslaved and imprisoned (Genesis 39-41)
- Moses: Passover and Death of eldest son (Genesis 11-12)
- Moses: The Law and the 5 Offerings (Burnt; Lev 1 / Grain; Lev 2 / Peace; Lev 3 / Sin; Lev 4 / Trespass; Lev 5)
- Moses: The Law and Daily Sacrifices (Ex 29:38-42)
- Moses: The Law and the 7 feasts (Passover; Lev 23:5 / Unleavened Bread; Lev 23:6 / First Fruits; Lev 23:10-11 / Pentecost; Lev 23:17 / Trumpets; Lev 23:24 / Atonement; Lev 23:27 / Tabernacles; Lev 23:34)

### 2. THE CRUCIFIED CHRIST IN THE LIFE OF JESUS (1:20-26)

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the **folly** (*moronic*) of what we preach to save those who believe.

For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a **stumbling block** (*offended*) to Jews and **folly** (*moronic*) to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

#### The Crucifixion of Jesus

- Jesus escapes Herod's murder of the children of Bethlehem (Matthew 2)
- Jesus baptized a baptism of repentance (John 1)
- Jesus rebukes Peter's denial of the crucifixion (Luke 9)
- Jesus calls disciples to follow the "cross" (Luke 9)
- Jesus prophesies his crucifixion three times to the apostles (Mark, 8,9,10)
- Jesus' crucifixion makes up a third of the gospels

### 3. THE CRUCIFIED CHRIST IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH (26-31 ESV)

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

But God chose what is foolish in the world to **shame** (*public humiliation and losing face*) the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and **despised** (*born into a lowly family*) in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

And because of him you are **in Christ Jesus**, who became to us wisdom from God, **righteousness** (*legally declared not guilty*) and **sanctification** (*set apart for God's purpose*) and **redemption**, (*the price paid to free a slave*) so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

### 4. THE CRUCIFIED CHRIST IN THE LIFE OF PAUL (2:1-5 ESV)

And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except **Jesus Christ and him crucified**.

And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

#### Power and Wisdom of Paul

Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep. **And Saul approved of his execution.** (Acts 7:54-8:1 ESV)

#### Power and Wisdom of God

But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to

bind all who call on your name.” But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; and taking food, he was strengthened. (Acts 9 ESV)

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. (Philippians 3:4-11 ESV)

### GOD’S OWN FOOL

Seems I've imagined Him all of my life  
As the wisest of all of mankind  
But if God's Holy wisdom is foolish to men  
He must have seemed out of His mind

For even His family said He was mad  
And the priest say a demon's to blame  
But God in the form of this angry young man  
Could not have seemed perfectly sane

We in our foolishness thought we were wise  
He played the fool and He opened our eyes  
And we in our weakness believed we were strong  
He became helpless to show we were wrong  
And so we follow God's own fool  
For only the foolish can tell  
Believe the unbelievable  
Come be a fool as well

So come lose our life for a carpenter's son  
For a madman who had died for a dream

And you'll have the faith His first followers had  
And you'll feel the weight of the beam

So surrender the hunger to say you must know  
Have the courage to say I believe  
For the power of paradox opens your eyes  
And blinds those who say they can see

We in our foolishness thought we were wise  
He played the fool and He opened our eyes  
And we in our weakness believed we were strong  
He became helpless to show we were wrong  
And so we follow God's own fool  
For only the foolish can tell  
Believe the unbelievable  
Come be a fool as well

So we follow God's own Fool  
For only the foolish can tell  
Believe the unbelievable, come be a fool as well  
(Michael Card: God’s Own Fool)