

Unstoppable

Doing What We Should Do While God Does What Only He Can Do

“Living and Loving What the World Calls Foolish”

I Corinthians 1:18 – 2:16

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Oct. 2, 2016

In **1 Corinthians 1:18-2:16** we can find **Four Reasons** why Christians and the Church of Jesus Christ have always looked so foolish to the world around us!

I. We’ve Got a Message that Sounds Utterly Foolish to the World – The Cross

I Corinthians 1:18-19 “For the message of the cross is foolishness 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 bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.’”

I Corinthians 2:1-2 “And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

The message of the cross is simply that God the Father did for us in His Son what we could never do for ourselves. He sent His only Son to die on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice for our sins, paying the perfect and all-sufficient price for our sins and securing for all time our forgiveness so that we can have peace with the God of the universe!

The cross has always been an offense. It didn’t just BECOME an offense through the years. It started off that way because the cross was reserved for slaves, pirates, and traitors. It was such a horrifying and humiliating way to die Romans citizens were never subjected to it.

II. We’re Using a Method that Looks Totally Foolish to the World Around Us – Preaching

I Corinthians 1:21-23 “For since in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness.”

A world that is committed to the theology of ‘save yourself’ is going to find the preaching of the cross intolerable, but that’s what God’s called us to do.

Remember, God doesn’t need us to DEFEND Him. He’s called us to PROCLAIM Him! There’s a big difference. Preaching is the proclamation of God and the Good News of what He’s done to save us from ourselves as well as to save us from His wrath to come on the Judgement Day.

III. We’ve Got a Motive that Seems Shockingly Foolish to the World – The Glory of God

I Corinthians 1:29-31 “That no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God – and righteousness and sanctification and redemption – that, as it is written, ‘He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.’”

The message of the cross makes much of God and puts us in our place! When you recognize what God has done for you, it humbles you and fuels your desire to live for the glory of God instead of yourself.

The message of the cross can seem like a threat because it gives a death-blow to our self-deluded pride and our self-inflated egos that say we can solve our biggest problems on our own – apart from any help from God!

You cannot dig into the world around you and not be confronted by the reality of a Creator God!

Romans 1:18-20 “The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, for God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities – His eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”

IV. We’ve Got a History of Attracting People that the World Would Mostly Consider Foolish

I Corinthians 1:26-28 “For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are.”

The message of the cross is blind to color, culture, class and creed. It's good news for every person here today regardless of your background, your money, your education and your IQ.

What keeps you from coming to Christ? He’s never turned anyone away!

Matthew 11:28 “Come to Me all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest.”

John 6:35, 37 "... I am the Bread of life, he who comes to Me shall never hunger... and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out."

The biggest problems that keep people from coming to Christ are intellectual pride and control. They don’t want to let go of their own lives.

V. We Have the Holy Spirit at Work in Our World Who Alone Has the Power to Change Their Minds!

Look again at **1 Cor. 2:6-14**. The Spirit of the living God is in those verses!

I Cor. 4:9-10 “... for we have been made a spectacle to the world... we are fools for Christ’s sake...”