



Blueprint for the Church:

Live the Gospel!

Small Group Study Guide



1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-5

Simplicity and Power of the Gospel

In this study, Paul is finishing up his argument against the church dividing itself into cliques around particular personalities or preaching styles or methodologies. In this section, he addresses how he came at first and preached before them, and where the real power comes from in preaching. This is significant for the people of any church to fully understand if they are going to **live the Gospel** according to **God's Blueprint for the Church**.

1. What the Corinthians were most intrigued with was based on a general popularity of those philosophers who were most eloquent in their speech and could dazzle their audiences with their command of language. Based on this understanding of what Paul is addressing, answer the following questions.
 - In what ways is the American church similar in following the same path that the Corinthian church was guilty of? Explain your answer.
 - In what ways can the Gospel be hindered by those who attempt to use dazzling communication skills and eloquent speech?
2. According to Gordon Fee, "in every possible way Paul has tried to show them the folly of their present fascination with wisdom, which has inherent within it the folly of self-sufficiency and self-congratulation."¹
 - In your own words, how can preaching or teaching show self-sufficiency or self-congratulation?
 - In what way can you be guilty of being self-sufficient or self-reliant when presenting the gospel?

¹Gordon D. Fee, *The First Epistle to the Corinthians* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1987), 90.

Don't Forget:
Discuss the Sermon Notes from this week

3. What did Paul mean when he said he claimed to “know nothing but Jesus Christ and Him crucified”?

- In what way should we also claim to know nothing but Jesus Christ and Him crucified?
- How would this attitude affect the way we approach discipleship?
- How would this attitude affect the way we approach evangelism?

BIBLE MEMORY:

For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

1 Corinthians 2:2

4. The word “demonstration” was a term used for testimony or proof presented in a court of law that was too much to refute. In what ways can preaching demonstrate a power that comes from God? What is the evidence of this power?

5. There is always a real danger “in letting the form and content get in the way of what should be the single concern: the gospel proclaimed through human weakness but accompanied by the powerful work of the Spirit so that lives are changed through a divine-human encounter.”² Do you agree or disagree with this statement. Explain your answer.

- If you agree, in what way can the form or style of preaching “get in the way” of Spirit-empowered preaching, teaching or proclaiming of the Gospel?
- If you agree, in what way can the content “get in the way” of Spirit-empowered preaching, teaching or proclaiming of the Gospel?

6. What is it, from this study, you will seek to apply in your life to more faithfully commit to God’s **Blueprint for the Church**?

²Gordon D. Fee, *The First Epistle to the Corinthians* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1987), 96-97.

For Next Week:
Prayerfully meditate and study the following: 1 Corinthians 2:6-12