



Blueprint for the Church:

Live the Gospel!

Small Group Study Guide



1 CORINTHIANS 2:10-16

The Holy Spirit's Work

As we have already seen in this opening issue that Paul is addressing, one of the hindrances of the church to effectively live the Gospel is divisions that are formed when the people in the church scurry to group themselves around particular leaders, teachers or philosophies. That is why Paul is emphatically pointing out that we all have one common heritage in the faith and it is around this that we are to be united.

1. As a review, look back over the progression of Paul's argument and identify the statements he makes that point to the one common heritage of our faith that is to be the foundation on which we stand united.
 - 1:18-23 (key verse: v. 23):
 - 1:24-31 (key verse: v. 30):
 - 2:1-5 (key verse: v. 2):
 - 2:6-9 (key verse: v. 7):
2. In this passage, there are some specific words used by Paul to describe the specific work of the Holy Spirit in both the giving and receiving of the Gospel message. Take some time and explain what Paul means in his use of each of these words (the context will help you in determining this). Also, in your own words, what is the significance of seeing the Holy Spirit as being the one who does this action?
 - Reveals (v. 10):
 - Searches (v. 10):
 - Knows (v. 11):
 - Gives (v. 12):
 - Teaches (v. 13):

Don't Forget:

Discuss the Sermon Notes from this week

3. Who is Paul referring to when he refers to the “natural man” (v. 14)? In your own words, what is the grim reality of those who are “natural”?

4. If the natural man is unable to discern the spiritual truths of the Gospel message (God’s wisdom), how then can he or she come to believe in Christ Jesus?

5. Based on this passage, what is the work of the Holy Spirit in salvation?

6. To understand what Paul is saying has phenomenal implications on what it means to be an **ACTS** church which shares the message of Christ and Him crucified (cf. 1:23, 2:2).

- What is your role in sharing Christ?

- What is the Holy Spirit’s role in sharing Christ?

- How does a proper understanding of both our role and the Spirit’s role in sharing the Gospel affect the way you approach the mission of proclaiming the Good News of “Christ crucified”?

BIBLE MEMORY:

But a natural man does not accept the things of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. But he who is spiritual appraises all things.

1 Corinthians 2:14-15

7. Throughout this entire section, 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:16, Paul has pointed out that both the message and the means of salvation is not from man but is from God. Salvation is not based on any merit or ability in us or the one who proclaimed the Gospel to us, but is completely based on the power and grace of God revealed to us through the work of the Spirit. In what ways does a proper understanding of this thereby diminish any potential for boasting in a particular teacher or leaders in the church (cf. 1:10-17)?

8. Based on this study, and understanding the power of God in salvation, who is the true builder of the Church and how then should we respond to the directions and instructions given in the inspired and inerrant **Blueprint for the Church**? Why then, do so many in the Christian community seem to look somewhere else for a blueprint on what the church is be?

For Next Week:
Prayerfully meditate and study the following: 1 Corinthians 3:1-4