

*“But God Chose . . . So That No Human Being Might Boast”*

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

*Celebrating the Centrality of Christ in the Local Assembly*

The Corinthian Fellowship was struggling with body unity. Because of their focus on the individual leaders they were divided and splintered. Their schism reflected their wisdom base, it was “earthly, natural, and demonic” (James 3:14-17).

In 1:18-2:5, Paul shows the folly of God’s ways in contrast to man’s with three distinct thoughts.

First, God’s folly is seen in a crucified Messiah (1:18-25).

Second, God’s folly is seen in the Corinthian believers (1:26-31).

Third, God’s folly is seen in Paul’s preaching (2:1-5).

Paul reminds his audience that the very people over which they are dividing are, in contrast to God, nothing. The following paragraph is a reminder for us that we are nothing and He is everything.

It is in light of the division within the fellowship over personalities that Paul brings before his audience this reminder.

I. Who did God call (v. 26)?

A. The nature of the call

1. The general call of God is extended through common grace.

I personally believe there is a general call that is extended to all who hear the Word of God. However, the call in verse 26 is not a general call as can be seen by the narrow or selected or targeted audience. If this were a general call, then there would be no qualifiers as to who is called.

2. The specific call of God is extended through effectual grace to all who hear the gospel and to all whose ears the Father has opened.

B. The nature of those called

1. The called are foolish / we are not smart enough

2. The called are weak / we are not strong enough

3. The called are base / we are not cultured enough

4. The called are despised / we are not attractive enough

II. Why did God do this (vv. 27-29)?

A. To shame the wise

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- B. To shame the things which are strong
- C. So that He may nullify the things that are
- D. So that no man may boast before God

III. What are the results of God's call (vv. 30, 31)?

- A. He is for His people wisdom
- B. He is for His people righteousness
- C. He is for His people sanctification
- D. He is for His people redemption

- Wisdom is living life in light of who He is, what He has done, and who I am in Him.
- Righteousness is accepting your standing before the Father in His Son.
- Sanctification is living in the liberty wherein Christ has set you free.
- Redemption is no longer living under the mastery of sin.

This is what Jesus Christ is for His people. Each of these words means more than this, but none mean less.