

1Cor 2:6-16

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The wisdom of God

1Cor 2:6-9 Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; 7 but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; 8 the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory; 9 but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."

Two kinds of wisdom (1Cor 1-2)

Wisdom of the World	Wisdom of God
A wisdom of words (1:17; 2:14)	A wisdom of power, not words alone (2:4-5)
Man's words (2:4)	The Spirit's words (2:13)
The spirit of the world (2:12)	The Spirit of God (2:12)
Foolishness to God (1:20)	Foolishness to men (2:14)
The philosopher (1:20)	The preacher (1:31; 2:4)
Ignorance (1:21)	Knowledge of God (2:12)
Leads to condemnation (1:18)	Leads to glory (1:18; 2:7)

Two kinds of knowledge

Natural knowledge	Spiritual knowledge
Knowledge through five senses; (sight, hearing, touch, smell, taste)	Knowledge through revelation
Learn through education	Learn through Holy Spirit (1 Cor 2:13; 1Thes 4:9)
Rational	Discernment (Phil 1:9; Heb 5:14)

Two kinds (stages) of instructions

Kerygma = a herald's announcement for a king; the announcement of facts - the life, death, resurrection of Jesus and His 2nd coming. The basic teaching to those who are babes in Christ.

Didache = a teaching; the explanation of the meaning of the facts which has already been announced. This is for the more mature person in Christ. (1Cor 14:20; Eph 4:13; Phil 3:15)

The mystery of God's wisdom is hidden, it can only be obtained by revelation

mystery = something whose meaning is hidden; God's wisdom is a secret.

hidden = it is not plain to the person looking for understanding from the world, self or others.

revelation = an unveiling; a 'secret', it can be understood only through revelation from God's Spirit.

The things that God has prepared for us (Isa 64:4)

The human eye hasn't yet seen
The human ear hasn't yet heard
The human heart hasn't yet understood

The wisdom of God (the cross of Christ), predestined before the ages

The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world (Rev 13:8; 17:8; 1Pt 1:19-20)
The blood (Jesus) of the everlasting covenant (Heb 13:20; 9:11-28; 10:29)

Rulers of this world (Jn 12:31; 14:30)

Eph 3:10 so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.

Eph 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Col 1:16)

Col 2:15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

Comparison of two worlds

1Cor 2:10-16 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, 13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. 14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. 15 But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. 16 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.

Two Spirits

Spirit of this world

Eph 2:1-3 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 2:3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Spirit of God

The Spirit searches the deep thoughts of God and reveals them to us, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God. (1Cor 2:10-12)

Two kinds of people

The natural (psuchikos) man

psuchikos = psuche in Greek is translated soul; it is the principle of physical life which man shares with all living creatures. This is the man who lives as if there was nothing beyond this physical life, the unsaved man, who walks according to the course of this world (Eph 2:1-3). He cannot receive the things of the Spirit because he does not have the Spirit dwelling within him.

The spiritual (pneumatikoi) man

pneumatikoi = pneuma is the word for spirit; this is what makes a man different from the rest of creation and able to fellowship with God. This is the believer who has the Holy Spirit, who has discernment and can judge and evaluate things with God's insights.

We have the mind of Christ

Rom 8:5 For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. (Rom 8:3-9)

Rom 8:27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, ...

Heb 10:16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them ... I will put my laws upon their heart and on their mind will write them

Col 3:2-3 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

References used:

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Faith Life Study Bible
Holman Bible Handbook
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