



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 5 Boasting in the Workings of God
By Pastor Jody May 05/25/2025

1 Corinthians 1:25 - For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Uncommon Sense - *"God's Wisdom over man's pride through a Flawed Church."*

[CALL TO HEAR]

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 ESV

Christ the Wisdom and Power of God

²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Pastor - "People of God, this is the Word of God."

People - "Thanks be to God."

Pray

Illustration

This past week I got the chance to write out for myself my political thought process. It was a good exercise to just sit there and ask myself just how much I care or don't care about American politics. That's a practice I would commend to all of us, especially in light of **Memorial Day**. The day we have set aside to remember all those that have come before us and have given their lives for this great land. As a May, that weighs heavy on me, for my people have been in this land before we were ever a country, back to 1610 when this very weekend John Rolfe's party made landfall 415 years ago.¹ Meaning my

¹ <https://www.geni.com/people/Rev-William-Mayes/6000000013733351415>



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family has fought in every American scrap/war imaginable. I definitely need to process out the sacrifice they have paid for my freedoms now. How much should I be involved in this nation that God has laid His good hand upon.

I started this exercise because I was confronted by some things I read this week with the massive amounts of divisiveness when it comes to politics for it is in politics that most people now in America have placed their trust. Everyone it seems has placed their ability to be happy, content, and safe in the hands of those that govern instead of the one that uses such powers to accomplish his bidding.

We just witnessed this past week in our Bible reading three times that Daniel was threatened by political superpowers of his day and three times God delivered Daniel out of their hands. Three times God used His man who was on the losing side of a war and raised him up so as to show the political elite, like Nebuchadnezzar, his son Belshazzar, and the Persian Emperor King Darius who was in charge. Twice the wise men of that land tried to get Daniel killed when in return he saved them three times! Then after ever intervention by Daniel he was raised up as the functional leader of present-day Iraq all so that God's will would be fulfilled. That He would send back His people one day, reinstate God worship in Jerusalem, making way for His Son to become the Messiah, all so that His name would be glorified.

Daniel 2:20-22 ESV

²⁰ Daniel answered and said:

"Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,
to whom belong wisdom and might.

²¹ He changes times and seasons;
he removes kings and sets up kings;
he gives wisdom to the wise
and knowledge to those who have understanding;

²² he reveals deep and hidden things;
he knows what is in the darkness,
and the light dwells with him.



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God is the source of all wisdom and God is the source of all power, and everything He does is for His own glory (Is. 42:8).

Introduction

That pattern of raising up and tearing down for the sake of His glory has not changed for thousands of years. This is exactly what Paul was pointing out in today's passage, and to capture it in one point today I would say it like this.

MP:

**God raises up and God tears down,
for in Christ alone is glory found.**

This is how it works even in our current situation in America. While we are called to be good citizens and exercise our Christian Liberty to the best of our ability, voting based on the facts that we must spend time searching out more than ever, our Salvation is not in political means but based in the hands of God that controls all political movement.

You see the Gospel gives you and me certain freedoms that so many Americans do not have nor do they understand that being American can't bring them every freedom.

Romans 13:1-4 ESV

13 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is **no authority except from God**, and those that exist have been instituted by God. **2** Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. **3** For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, **4** for he is God's servant for your good.

Instead of worrying about what is going on in Washington, I remember what God has done through history, and I lean into what His Word says. I choose to trust in God, and that He will accomplish all He sets out to do, with whoever is in control.



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I also must believe that God's plans for our country may not be things that match my personal desires, much like Daniel and much like Paul. That's ok, I know He has a plan working that is bigger than America and her History.

Ephesians 1:10 ESV

as a plan for the fullness of time, to **unite all things in him**, things in heaven and things on earth.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 ESV

¹⁶ For the **Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command**, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

God will unite all things in His Son (Eph 1:10) culminating in His return (1 Thes 4:16-18). What we can rest in is that God's plans will not be thwarted, evil will not prevail, and you and I have a future secured. The Gospel frees you and me from worry and angst for **God will always be building up and tearing down, for in Christ alone shall glory be found.**

So today, to elaborate on Paul's point, we are going to keep using our word alliteration skills to show how God does this not just in the political spectrum but in our everyday lives. We need to see that how God acts with the elite powers is the same way that He acts in and through the church in her everyday comings and goings. Three things I want us to see today from our text: First, is that God chooses the **witless** to shame the **wise**. Secondly, God chooses the **lowly** to bring down the **lofty**. Lastly, God chooses **heavenly adoption** to quiet **worldly opposition**. All to help us learn this Gospel freeing fact.

MP:

**God raises up and God tears down,
for in Christ alone is glory found.**



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1. God chooses the **witless to shame the **wise**.**

²⁶ For consider your **calling**, brothers: not many of you were **wise** according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

²⁷ But God chose what is **foolish** in the world to **shame** the **wise**; God chose what is **weak** in the world to **shame** the **strong**;

Again, Paul falls back into the weight and strength of their calling. We talked about that a few weeks gone by now, that the Corinthians to assure them that this letter of correction was not to kick them out of the church or just berate them for failure but to build up the Corinthians in the knowledge they were saved by God's electing will, by **effectual call**. Then he builds on God's action of election and says, "**not many** of you were wise according to worldly standards". Paul is like, the same reason you have been having unity problems, trying to pick who you like on popularity standards, is not why God chose you. God doesn't call out people based on their earthly status He calls them on a heavenly one.

God did not pick you like other men pick other people for things. This is not a PTSD moment when you should look back and dread not being picked until last for your kickball team. ☺ God does not pick people on their skills, especially on skills of teaching, debating, and philosophical speculating. He picks people, most of the time who are the exact opposite. **It is the exception for God to save the wise/strong it doesn't happen as much.** Earthly Wisdom is a hindrance into entering into the Kingdom of God, because man's pride almost always gives himself too much credit (think of Jordan Peterson)!

God has chosen the foolish (*mōros*)² of this earth to shame the wise. I used the word witless, because it shows a lack in a person's understanding in how the world works especially in power structures. Aren't you glad that God works not

² Paul uses *mōria* several times in 1 Corinthians to show how the gospel message appears as foolishness to the world because mankind needs spiritual help to apprehend spiritual things (1 Cor 1:18; 2:14). Worldly wisdom is also described as foolishness from God's perspective (1 Cor 3:19). G. Scott Gleaves, "[Foolishness](#)," in *Lexham Theological Wordbook*, ed. Douglas Mangum et al., Lexham Bible Reference Series (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).



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in the way of man!? Aren't you glad He didn't hold tryouts in order to be a Christian? Aren't you glad that God did not ask to see your IQ score before granting you faith? Aren't you glad that God didn't reward people with eternal life based on a merit system? Aren't you glad He didn't grant justification based on your lineage, your 'Alma Maters' and the achievements of your forefathers? I sure am! God loves to use those that lack wit, smarts, wisdom, independence, mental fortitude, and even common sense in how this world works and He makes them wise in the ways of the Kingdom, BY FAITH through the Wisdom of the Cross, to SHAME³ the wise of this world.

That way that word for Shame is used in the Greek in most places, means people will not be let down (end time Salvation on judgment day) if they have put their hope in the saving work of God. So, God uses the witless to shame the wise, for God never lets down those effectually called showing the wise of this world how foolish they are to put their trust in man. TRUE **FAITH is wisdom** for it is passed onto the believer supernaturally that God will not fail you. When you and I live like that it makes what the world puts their hope in seem foolish.

Just to go back a moment to our opening illustration, why would we build so much value in the elite, especially the political motivated, and put our hopes in them? Does that really make you rest at night? No one can figure out how the world works because scripture says all rulers work for God (Rom 13:4) and that no one understands the ways of God (Rom 3:11). Again, lean not into your own understanding but in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight (Prov 3:5-6). God uses the witless and their trust in Him, their calm in all circumstances, their inclinations not to worry, their ability to pray first before freaking out, to tell the world you are the foolish ones!

God raises up and He tears down for in Christ alone is Glory found, and He does this through the witless shaming the wise.

2. God chooses the **lowly to bring down the **lofty**.**

³ **2875** κατασχύνω (*kataischynō*): vb.; ≡ DBLHebr 1017; Str 2617; TDNT 1.189—LN 25.194 **put to shame** (Lk 13:17; Ro 5:5; 9:33; 1Co 1:27; 11:4, 22; 2Co 7:14; 9:4; 1Pe 2:6; 3:16; Mt 20:28 v.r. NA26) James Swanson, [*Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek \(New Testament\)*](#) (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).



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²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

Paul brings the reality of what he is proclaiming into the forefront now; v.28 solidifies what might be the heart problem of the Corinthian people and why they revered the wise. Paul states that God **chose**, again it is not that God got second pickings, it wasn't that He wasn't chosen by the wise, but instead God made the choice by His will to bring to Him the lowly and despised of the world. **It means He wants them!**

It is important for Christians to understand the power for spiritual and emotional change in your life is to understand you were desired by God to be His, not by your worth, but for the simple fact before you were born you were marked as His. That knowledge of divine calling puts in the minds of the saints that ability to deny sin; believing you mean something to God, that He wanted you first, gives the saint the desire to show Him favorably.

Paul is quick to point out in the following phrase, **even things that are not**, that is a supporting clause of that first sentence, Paul is assuring his loved ones because of this calling you now have worth. And those of worth based in God's calling were chosen to bring down those that have only worldly worth.

It is important to note that in Corinth, this major capital in ancient Asia, this connection point for commerce and culture, this pinnacle of human intellectual thought, that the church was not made up of its' elites but its' lowest of lows. Meaning it was made up of those that served the lofty whether through capital means or by slavery. The church in Corinth was not constructed by the lofty like all its' other temples with idol worshippers and pagan practices. This church of Corinth was gaining power and influence by the presence of God, in a city that only notices the worldly elite. God was growing them to overshadow the other religions, and He was doing it through the lowly so that no one in that church could boast.

Family, take heart, what an interesting time to live in. When a little church like ours, with no big names, no big affiliations, and no stars and yet we have a



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bigger opportunity to make a Kingdom impact for God in this community all because our success does not rely on our prominence.

Our success will not rely on how well we define a discipleship process. Our success will not be dictated by our bank accounts. Our success will not be based on marketing schemes. Our success will not be based on production qualities, technology, nor pleasant mood lighting. Our success as a church depends on the Spirit of God alone and our willingness to keep believing in our calling, accepting our worth in Christ alone, and to keep boasting in Him when things happen! There is nothing our Father desires more than a church that comes together looking for opportunities to bring God praise! You start there and we can't go wrong.

Family God has chosen the lowly of HCC to bring down the lofty, for it is a part of God's plan of building up and tearing down, for it is in Christ alone that glory is found.

3. God chooses **heavenly adoption to quiet **worldly opposition**.**

³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, **righteousness and sanctification and redemption**, ³¹ so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

You see family, God's plan all along was to make nobodies into somebodies by placing them in the biggest somebody of all time! Jesus represents the culmination of all wisdom for all time and when we are placed by God into Christ's care we have been placed into a position that will for all eternity be seen as the wisest of all decisions.

Now when you are not use to an elite status, that is a saint a called one of God, you could get worried about losing it, especially if you had no power in gaining it. Well Paul wants to assure them that status they have comes from the wonderful doctrine we call **adoption** which is what is being displayed here in this text. God just doesn't grant you a temporary earthly status based in finite timelines, He places you into the family that's eternal and has it all!



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Paul again reiterated this in his next letter to the Corinthians.

2 Corinthians 6:18 ESV

"and I will be a father to you, and you shall **be sons and daughters** to me, says the Lord Almighty."

In this adoption we all receive **righteousness**, that is our need to be found right comes from our new family status not our personal status. We don't accomplish things to show our worth, God shows His worth through the Son, and we gain the Son's worth, through faith.

In this adoption we all receive **sanctification**, that is our ongoing removal from this world, that is holiness, and a holiness that will never be revoked. Adoption means I may not always act like I am one of the family, but it means I will never lose my family, nor will I be content remaining away from them. A godly sanctification is permanent family status that cannot be revoked.

In this adoption we all receive **redemption**, that is there was a price that was owed for our lives and God paid that permanently. Because of that permanent family status, the things I do now I do for Him, meaning even the things I mess up, the Father still uses that for His glory and our good!

Adoption means I am never alone, I always have His support, I will never be lost, and I will always be secured. To add the cherry on top in the future I will possess a glorified physical body (Phil 3:21) with the ability not just have inherent heavenly wisdom but a perfect functioning mind that understands without limitations the physical universe. For all eternity God will have a people that will resemble Him just as the Son resembles Him now.

All again this is done so that God receives the credit not those who are children of the world. As Paul quoted the prophet Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 9:23-24 ESV

²³ Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am



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the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”

At the end of Israel’s time Jeremiah is confronted with the fact that men’s wisdom has failed. All that there is left to do is admit if there is anything good in your life give all that credit to God. Now for the church we understand the good we do have was given us through adoption, we inherited it, which always lets us daydream about the better days to come, because we have only received the first fruits of this work.

Ephesians 1:11-14 ESV

¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Adoption is a part of God’s plan of building up and tearing down, for it is in Christ alone that glory is found.

[CALL TO OBEY]

Don’t seek to emulate the wise seek to emulate Christ.

Seek to emulate He who was the wisest by His practices.

Seek to be the best at what you do to bring the most glory to God you can.

Seek out more knowledge of Christ and less of the world.

Don’t covet the lifestyles of the lofty but embrace your lowly position.

Don’t let your mind drift into coveting what you see on media.

Don’t let yourself be influenced by those that seem to have all the fun.

Don’t get mad when you are not noticed like others.

Spend time meditating on your already gifted position of adoption.

God has chosen you as a part of a plan.



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God has chosen to have a relationship like a Father to a son/daughter.
God has chosen to leave you an inheritance you can't squander.

MP:

**God raises up and God tears down,
for in Christ alone is glory found.**

Prayer

Communion

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 ESV

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."²⁵In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Today when you eat of the bread remember the life of Jesus which was lived for us. Jesus chose not to follow the wise of this world but instead clung to the Wisdom of God. When He discovered the path was hard, he never ran from His destiny, He never took a shortcut, and He never shirked His responsibilities. Praise be to Him for His Wise Ways.

Today when you drink the juice remember the cost of our sin displayed by His blood for the new covenant. In order to save us Jesus assumed the position of the lowest of lows and died the death we deserved. Jesus' blood perfectly covers our sins for desiring to be in and of the world. Praise be to Him, to the only one we can boast in, for His wonderful love.

[CONFESSION OF FAITH]

* The Congregation will stand



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Elder – “Christians, what do we believe?”

Congregation - recites the *London Baptist Confession of Faith 1689, Chapter 12, Section 1*

To all who are justified, God chose to give the grace of adoption in and for the sake of his only Son, Jesus Christ. 1 Through adoption, they are included among the children of God and enjoy the freedoms and privileges of being children of God. 2 They

- have his name put on them 3
- receive the spirit of adoption 4
- have access to the throne of grace with boldness
- enabled to cry Abba, Father 5
- are pitied 6
- protected 7
- provided for 8
- and disciplined by him as by a Father 9
- but never cast off 10
- but are sealed until the day of redemption, 11
- and inherit the promises as heirs of everlasting salvation. 12

1. Ephesians 1:5; Galatians 4:4-52. John 1:12; Romans 8:173. 2 Corinthians 6:18; Revelation 3:124. Romans 8:155. Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 2:186. Psalms 103:137. Proverbs 14:26; 1 Peter 5:78. Hebrews 12:69. Isaiah 54:8-910. Lamentations 3:3111. Ephesians 4:3012. Hebrews 1:14, 6:12

[OFFERING+LAST SONG]

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that has chosen us as His children based solely in His Grace and Love.

Go in the name of the Son, that shamed the rulers of this world through perfect submission to Godly Wisdom for the praise of God alone.



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Go in the name of and power of the HS, that has sealed our adoption eternally, marking and sealing us as God's own, go and share with other the family you have found.



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