



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 10 Privileges of being the Church
By Pastor Jody May 06/29/2025

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 3:18-23 ESV

¹⁸ Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," ²⁰ and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." ²¹ So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, ²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, ²³ and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

**Pastor - "People of God, this is the Word of God."
People - "Thanks be to God."**

Pray

Illustration

I remember a time shortly after I arrived here in GA where it seemed like no matter where I looked, I saw something for sale that was of the adult recreational variety. For a span of about two years if one desired you could find a used ATV for like \$150, or a camper, or a boat, or motorcycle, or a hot tub, or hunting equipment, or a hobby car everything like 90% lower than what you see today. Homes that right now are over \$500K were selling for \$150K. Why? Well, it was right after the housing market popped, and many of the people who were making cash hand over foot in the housing market, all of the sudden were left with a bunch of payments and no income coming in.

People who were fortunate enough to have a little money before the housing market were able to purchase the things they had always had a desire to do. There's nothing wrong with that, to get that thing that you liked when you



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have the cash to do so. **As a Christian there is no problem with getting something you want as long as you are giving to God out of your first fruits and no one else has a need in your home.** That's not what was going on though in our culture though. All of the sudden people were trying to dump all those extra things in life because they couldn't afford them anymore. They needed cash fast to pay for ballooning mortgages, and the toys they went after quickly without a lot of thought, lost their gleam, and the joy that they offered paled against the reality that **all bills come due**. It seems the Bank and the IRS don't really care about your lack of poor financial judgment.

What was displayed there for a couple of years in selling off materialism is what happens when DESIRE goes unchecked in a person's heart and they fall into the trap that what really makes them happy is what other people have.

Introduction

The difficult part of dealing with desire is not all desire is covetous or sinful. God created mankind with a heart to desire God above all and then to desire the good things that God has supplied in the earth that lead you to worship Him. The problem for us is that the cheap imitations of what God wants us to have are easily accessible. We fall into trouble when we can't stop desiring that which we really don't need, and that desire when we give into temptation, **turns into coveting** and by then it is too late. **Coveting is replacing God in your life with a god of your choosing because that thing is now controlling your emotional life, stealing the affections that belong to God, and absorbing your misplaced loyalties.**

It doesn't matter how long you have lived as a Christian, it doesn't matter what trials and tribulations you have overcome through the Spirit in your life, it does not matter that you have witnessed the miraculous workings of God in the everyday world, **ALL Christians are plagued with a debilitating spiritual condition** that can take our God-given desires and turn them into condemning covetousness.



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Paul in our passage today, finally at the end of his opening argument in Corinthians, gets to the root of why the Corinthians are having such a hard time breaking away from secular culture. It comes in the contextual clues found in vs.21-23 where he gives a short list of what they have gained since the planting of the church and finishes with, **“all our yours”**. He wants to turn off their coveting of earthly wisdom, their coveting for earthly lifestyles which you will discover from chapter 5 on, and he wants to elevate what they have received from God, hoping to realign their affections with a living God not cheap substitutes.

MP:

What you already have is all you will ever need.

Wouldn't that be amazing this morning church, if we could walk away with that truth living in our souls. I mean that answers a lot of heart ache in a lot of us, learning to be content with what we have in God and to relish in it for it is all we truly need! Not to be controlled by desire, nor contorted by lust, or constrained by a sense of worldly longing but instead to be empowered by an overwhelming sense that you have already received in this world that which fulfills the heart! The answer comes though through your stance against this life, the world is constantly telling you that you need more, you will have to learn to fight back!

Ephesians 4:22-24 ESV

²²to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through **deceitful desires**, ²³and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

If you sit and treat your life like a frozen chosen you will not have victory over this, Paul tells us that deceitful desire is something to confront with the action of putting off the old self and putting on the new self. So, I want to build these points today in the text off the action every believer needs to take to put on the new self. Your daily practice of reading, prayer, and meditation are absolutely essential but then take that and speak it back into your life in the name of Jesus. Here's what I mean: **Preach to yourself** the important



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things we find in God's Gospel today. **Preach to yourself that no man has all the answers.** That means what other men proclaim as your answer to happiness outside of Christ Crucified are only adding to your angst of wrongful desires. **Preach to yourself that this world cannot fulfill your soul.** That means that you have to stop looking at, death scrolling through, things that are temporary and passing by, and you must start looking at the things that build the eternal. **Lastly, preach to yourself that you already have all you need or want in Christ.** If your joy is being provided by something else outside of life in Christ and His church, it is a false joy and most likely needs to be rejected.

1. Preach to yourself that no man has all the answers.

¹⁸ Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in **this age**, let him become a fool that he may become wise.

Paul has provided two chapters of proof of why it is not smart to think like the unconverted in Corinth. This passage sounds a lot like the second half of chapter 1 that is because this is the conclusion to that argument. You know your introductory paragraph states the same as the concluding paragraph just in a different manner.

There's that phrase again, **this age**, remember when we talked about that about 3 weeks ago. Remember whenever you see in the Bible **this age** it is referring to the present age since the fall that will continue until Christ's return. The **age to come**, will be that time after Christ's return. Some of the elements of the age to come, like eternal life now, came at Christ's first coming, the majority comes with His second return.¹ We have been warned about this already that if you think you are wise, and now that is **code for thinking you figured out how to get things from God**, then Paul is like please let him become a fool. In other words, Paul says by all means help that man become a fool in the eyes of the world for this is the path of Salvation!

¹ Waldron, Sam. [The Doctrine of Last Things / An Optimistic Amillennial View](#). (Conway, AZ: Free Grace Press, 2025).



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We as God's people help ourselves and help each other by reminding ourselves, preaching to ourselves and each other, that the wisdom of this age cannot save, the men of this age cannot offer eternal answers, and this age is based only on what is observable. AND if it is in the realm of the observable that means it is something that can be made to be more desirable and according to Ephesians 4 has the ability to deceive you.

What's more anyone has the ability to do it now. Thanks to the modern movement of everyone can be a video star anyone can become an online influencer. Thanks to that phenomenon it seems like people can trick people into doing anything! (Pickle Girl). Just because it is on media does not make it a good idea try or a good life skill to incorporate. Yet the desire to try something out that other people post is almost overwhelming, isn't it?

There are going to be lots of people in our lives from now until we die and for that matter until Jesus returns that seem like they have all the answers (mastering just one small section of the observable world). People that will seem wise, like they have figured out life, and they offer answers for what troubles you right now.

What's more they will be on both sides of the aisle. There will be people that sound wise that are both liberal and conservative, people that will be both compassionate and yet assertive, the Christian and the non-Christian.

Whether it is a Joe Rogan or a Tucker Carlson, a Bill Maher or a Glenn Beck, a [Greg Gutfeld](#) or a Steven Colbert, a Jordan Peterson or a [Tommy Robinson](#), an Elon Musk or a Jeff Bezos. All those men, I have heard their attempts at explaining faith and God and it ALL falls way short. They have a ton of earthly wisdom, and they have a lot of earthly riches for their heart's desire, but I tell you **let them become fools so they may become wise**. They are a corrupted source of wisdom; they have been deceived according to Ephesians 4 by going after the observable.

Do they have a lot of influence in your life? Are you taking in their wisdom as what keeps you afloat, sane, and calm?



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It's too easy to say we don't listen to the Joyce Meyers, Joel Osteen's and Benny Hinn's of the world but what about folks like Dave Ramsey, or Erik Erickson, or a Charlie Kirk? Listen whether Christian or non-Christian, Heretical teaching or correct doctrinal base, **those people talk for a living and their job is to get you to listen**, so they get paid when they keep a show going. Are you gaining the wisdom of this age from them OR are they tying in all their wisdom to Christ Crucified? What they are preaching does it keep you going back to them or does it drive you to God's Word? Worldly wisdom never satisfies, worldly wisdom even from a Christian source is like takeout Chinese food, you have to keep eating to get full but then you are hungry again an hour later.

Family let not our desires for peace, let not our desires to be right, and let not our desires for security get us spending all our time listening to men's wisdom.

Matthew 6: 25 & 33 ESV

²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

³³But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

You and I will never outrun our anxious spirit if we keep going to the men of this age for answers, **their job is to build up anxiousness in you so they can keep their positions/jobs of wisdom givers**. Instead, Jesus says by seeking His Kingdom first, His will, the wisdom in the age to come which starts with the Sure Foundation, we can subdue our anxieties.

MP: Remember family **you already have all you will ever need, so keep preaching to yourself and others the answers we seek for are not found in the wisdom of man.**

2. Preach to yourself that there is no wisdom outside of God's Wisdom.



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¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," ²⁰ and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile."

The Wisdom of this world is folly with God. It is foolish to contrast the wisdom of man with the wisdom of God. One is limited the other unlimited, one is finite the other infinite, one is learned while one has always existed. And the only place you can begin to lay hold of God's Wisdom is in His Word. Man can only accumulate that which has already been examined and that which has been revealed to us by God, therefore **what man comes up with is all under God's Providence**. Man cannot come up with anything that is outside God's will, nor can He explain away the need for God, the only thing that is wise for him to do is pursue God in hope that things will become clear for Him. That IS the beginning of all true wisdom!

Proverbs 9:10 ESV

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

Therefore, what Paul is so nicely summarizing again is that what you think is smart and what you think clarifies existence is only that which God allowed you to come up with so that it may suite His purposes in the end. Paul gives us a couple of OT quotes here to clarify what he means, and again, he uses God's word to display wisdom, not some philosophical opinion formed out of the Corinthians. That's a good reminder too. Don't feel you have to become a master at philosophy, logic, or apologetics, although it is good to have a basis for those things, but there is only one sword we have been given to wield and that is God's Word. Let it do the offending and cutting for that is Truth that never will dull.

¹⁹ ... For it is written, "He **catches** the wise in their craftiness,"

Job 5:13 ESV

He **catches** the wise in their own craftiness,
and the schemes of the wily are brought to a quick end.



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God uses the wisdom that men come up with to turn it back on them to bring about their schemes to an end. Just so you know God does that to receive glory and when God is revealed that is what turns men to Him. Many times, it is in how people fail by their own wisdom that God causes a great number of people to repent and turn to Him. He **seizes/catches** their scheming and uses that to bring about their downfall.

I think of Pharaoh and how he was considered a living god among his countrymen, how he relied on the wisdom of his counselors and magicians to rule his people. He listened to those earthly wise men, he was swayed by his own pride, and God used all the Wisdom of Egypt to turn His people, the Hebrews, to Him so they would leave their captors and trust Him in a wilderness leading them to a land they had never scene. Sometimes it takes big falls of some big leaders to get things moving again.

I can compare that even in our own land. Identity politics has almost destroyed one party and has resurrected a new one. The Democratic and Republican party of 20 years ago is gone, and the old wisdom of the world, which had been allowed by God, created a shift in American politics. **People on both sides are starting to learn that they are being played by politicians not necessarily being served by them.** Hopefully and prayerfully God uses some of that foolishness of men to get the church preaching a true Gospel again. Let us pray together church that these past few years was allowed so that the next generation is getting ready to move out from under the oppression of a government that seeks to control and maintain power to the cost and detriment of its people.

²⁰and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile."

Psalm 94:11-12 ESV

¹¹the LORD—knows the thoughts of man,
that they are but a breath.²

² |. הָבֹלוּ S^{1892, 1893} TWOT^{463a} GK^{2039, 2040}₇₃ n.m. vapour, breath (NH *id.*, Syriac ܗܒܘܠܐ (*habolo*) *id.*) fig. vanity: **Septuagint they are futile** Francis Brown, Samuel Rolles Driver, and Charles Augustus Briggs, [Enhanced Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon](#) (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1977), 210.



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¹² Blessed is the man whom you discipline, O LORD,
and whom you teach out of your law,

That saying **they are but a breath**; man's thoughts, speaks to the weakness of them, the original intent in the Hebrew means man's thoughts are futile. The wind out of our lungs generated by our mind can't do anything, but the breath of God from His mind calls forth creation, tears down nations, and makes the dead alive.

The Psalmist concludes in v.12, with this great truth, Blessed/HAPPY is the man whom God disciplines/admonishes by what He teaches them in His law.

All that we know is futile, but blessed is the person that God teaches otherwise, through interaction with His Word, the Bible. Again, when you spend more time in His Word (reading, listening, preaching, talking) it is amazing how many things in our lives get cleared up, how our anxieties go down, and how our desires for the world begin to fade. They fade because we are replacing our thoughts with His thoughts for it is His thoughts that hold the power to live life!

Romans 12:2 ESV

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Remember family what you already have, God's Wisdom in His Word, has lasted for thousands of years because God intended for it to be ALL that you would ever need. Keep preaching to yourself and others that there is no new wisdom outside of God's. He will use it all to glorify Himself...

3. Preach to yourself that all is yours in Christ alone.

²¹So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, ²²whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, ²³and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.



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Therefore, **DO NOT BOAST** in men and their wisdom! WHY!?

This gets good here at the end and Paul opens up a can of Theology on these boys in simple layman terms!

All things are yours! – Don't believe the world when it says you need! Don't give into feelings of loss or coveting, BECAUSE since all wisdom belongs to God you already HAVE IT ALL! Do you trust in God's Providence, do you trust in how He manages the world, do you trust how He provided your answers for life in His Word? All things are yours so live with that knowledge in the front lobe of your mind instead of buried in your gut!

Whether Paul, Apollos, or Cephas – you don't have to pick one teacher over the others, they were on the same side, Christ Crucified. Reconcile that, you can have more than one teacher of the gospel, why? Because the Gospel does not belong to a man, but the man belongs to the gospel. The Gospel is good news shared and derived from God. For us make sure they all come from a good source, but **don't base your feelings of being right** on who you listen to alone.

Or the world – you may not have what other people have but you have what God wanted you to have, therefore you have all you need to be successful for the call He gave to you! The world in which you are living, is the world you got, make the most of it! If you get more of the world, its' things, let God bring that to you, don't go chasing it! God has a plan to redeem the world, you are a part of that plan, **to steward for God** not to try to own it like a foolish person of this age.

Or life– Life doesn't own you, you own life! Life is what you make out of it for the glory of God, life does not tell you what you shall be. Your disabilities, your lowly stature, your lack of goods, do not define you! Instead, you define your life based on Jesus' Word in the sermon on the mount and you call yourself blessed! Jesus conquered for you all of life **through a resurrection** so you can live in His victorious life now!

Or death – Death, where is your sting now!?! **Through Christ the grave has been changed** from an eternal nothingness to a forever experience of being around the most glorious God and His people! Death no longer holds a dark and dismal future, it is a door that while painful to open, is no longer feared for it brings us



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into glorious reunions, eternal purpose, and a joy that will never be extinguished!

Or present or future – Because all things are yours you have no need to fear the present because the present was prescribed for you in the past by a Holy infinite wise God. You presently are living the exact way with the exact things that God desired for you to conform you into the image of His Son. Therefore, your future is secured, your Salvation is sealed and your future glorious meeting with Christ is confirmed to receive your rewards set aside for you. ***Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*** – Jesus (Mat 6:34)

And you are Christ's – The Lord was tasked by the Father from before time, *I will grant you the care of our people, you will go and get them and bring them home.* The Father chose well for those that are given unto Christ shall never be lost. ***"I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand."*** – **John 10:28 ESV**

And Christ is God's – The office of the Christ, what He must do to accomplish all of this, lies in the plan of the Father, decreed before time, the well of wisdom that always has been, the one that uses man's plans to bring about His will, therefore Christ will not fail! Our lives are tied up in the planning of God who catches the foolish in their craftiness and confines to futility the schemes of man.

MP:

What you already have is all you will ever need.

Family keep preaching to yourself man does not have the answers you seek, the world does not hold the wisdom to calm your hearts, and you already have everything through the completed work of Christ!

Colossians 3:2-3 ESV

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



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[CALL TO OBEY] * See *5 Ways to Make War Against Greed* by John Piper³

First part of the day, fight to see the supremacy of Christ in all things!

When fear comes up, why are they conquered in Christ? When desires to binge watch news, media, podcasts ask yourself how are those things substituting for Christ? When we fall into temptation ask other Christians how is Christ enough? Put your mind on Christ the first part of everyday and let Him take your worries from you every night.

Second, pray that the Father shows you what you need in the Bible! If all is Christ's in God, and Christ is God's, then we go to the author of Wisdom to ask for it and according to James 1:5 we will receive it! So, notice I said don't go to the Bible looking for the answers you want but pray and ask the Sovereign God, **show me what I need!** Let Him do the directing, and you do the doing, and in that way we take ourselves out of His seat!

Third, practice putting trust into God for your daily needs!

"My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus" ([Philippians 4:19](#)). God will always give us ways in which to glorify Him. JP taught this and this is what my family and I actually do. Put your giving, what you target for a goal, on automatic and then give in our gatherings out of the overflow of your heart! Don't make plans for bigger barns, let God give you the surplus first and then be challenged to give to a need! That means choose instead to invest your extra into Kingdom minded goals.

Family, this is only the conclusion to PT. 1 of Corinthians, **Uncommon Sense** – *"God's Wisdom over man's pride through a Flawed Church."* I pray through these next few months we come to discover this truth together.

MP:

What you already have is all you will ever need.

³ <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/lets-be-rich-toward-god/excerpts/five-ways-to-make-war-against-greed>



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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, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In 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." ²⁶ For 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. When the Father asked Him to be generous and share His birthright with us, He did. He never complained about the answers He received from God when life got real but interpreted the hard times as the life His Father chose for Him, and that His Father's Wise plan was to be desired over all! Thank Him for being the obedient servant we could never be! Praise be to Him for His Selfless Ways.

Today when you drink the juice remember the cost of our sin displayed by His blood for the new covenant. We have all allowed our desires to run rampant in our lives. They have caused us all to fall into temptation, pursuing what our hearts coveted, and to do so we followed the foolish wisdom of this world. We have failed in our call to put God above all, but praise be to Jesus, He has reconciled us and now all things are truly ours in Him! Praise be to Him for His wonderful love.

[CONFESSION OF FAITH]

* The Congregation will stand

Elder – "Christians, what do we believe?"



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Congregation – recites:

London Baptist Confession of Faith 1689 Chapter 12 Paragraph 1. The Blessings of Adoption

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 4:4-5
2. John 1:12; Romans 8:17
3. 2 Corinthians 6:18; Revelation 3:12
4. Romans 8:15
5. Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 2:18
6. Psalms 103:13
7. Proverbs 14:26; 1 Peter 5:7
8. Hebrews 12:6
9. Isaiah 54:8-9
10. Lamentations 3:31
11. Ephesians 4:30
12. Hebrews 1:14, 6:12

[OFFERING+LAST SONG]



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[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that has given us all things in His Son, may we continually be blessed with His abundant Wisdom.

Go in the name of the Son, that has secured all our privileges in His eternal work, that we may never lose them.

Go in the name of and power of the HS, that opens our eyes to the fact that we already have all we need in this life, now go and tell someone this good news!



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