



# 1 Corinthians 1:20–2:5

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Boast in the Lord



# Viewing everything in the light of the Gospel

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Our inability  
God's ability

# Context

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Writing to the church: 1 Cor. 1:11-12 Divided and exalting certain leaders - continues to chapter 4

1 Cor. 3:1-4

'1 Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who **live by the Spirit** but as people who are still worldly – mere infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. 3 You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not **acting like mere humans**? 4 For when one says, 'I follow Paul,' and another, 'I follow Apollos,' are you not mere human beings?'

# Two examples of human ways

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Signs and wisdom (v20-24)

Jews demand signs (v22)

Greeks look for wisdom (sophia) (v22)

# Two examples of human ways



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Signs and wisdom (v20-24)

What's wrong with them?

# Real power and wisdom

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The Gospel of Christ crucified doesn't seem to meet the tests of signs and wisdom...

But it actually *is* real power and wisdom (v24)

# God's ability and our inability

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God is wiser and stronger (v25)

God has called ordinary people (v26)

God has used 'foolish things' (v27-28)

Why? So that no one may boast (v29)

# God's ability and our inability



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It's about what God has done (v30)

Boast in God (v31)

# Paul applies this to himself

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Not a fine speaker or philosopher (2v1)

Focused on Christ crucified (2v2)

Personally struggled (2v3)

Depended on the power of God (2v4)

So that their faith depends on God (2v5)

# **What about us?**

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Do we view everything in the light of the Gospel?

In the church?

In our daily lives?