

The Call of the Cross

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

September 21, 2025 | Pastor Michael Foster

God designs his church in the shape of a cross. The cross should be central to our thinking, preaching, and action. In a world where worldly power and wisdom constantly pull on our hearts, the cross calls out and invites us back to the message and way of Jesus, the power and wisdom of God! We are at our best, and most useful for Christ, when we are tethered to his cross.

◆ **The reality of the cross**

◆ **The message of the cross**

◆ **The response to the cross**

◆ **The way of the cross**

FOR FURTHER ACTION/REFLECTION

Memorize 1 Corinthians 1:18

Read Romans 12:1-2, Colossians 3:12-17, James 3:17-18, Matthew 26:52

-56 Read about the power of the foolish cross – bit.ly/WisdomPower1

Read “The Utter Folly of the Cross” – bit.ly/FollyoftheCross

Listen to “The Wonderful Cross” – bit.ly/WonderfulCross

Listen to “Lead on O King Eternal” – bit.ly/LeadonOKing

Listen to “Power of the Cross” – bit.ly/ThePoweroftheCross1

Read Gospel Primer by Milton Vincent

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you most from the message?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 together. When you see a cross, and think about it for a moment, what do you think of? Or, what does the cross mean to you?
3. In your own words, explain why Paul says “the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing.” What is so foolish about the cross in the eyes of the world?
4. Share about a time when the message of the cross was a “stumbling block” either to you or to someone else. In what ways does the cross bring about stumbling?
5. Can you share an example from your life of how you came to realize that “the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom”? Or an example of how you have learned that “the weakness of God is stronger than human strength”?
6. Share about a time when you were considered “foolish” for following Christ in some way. How did the Lord help you and encourage you?
7. What are some practical ways we can guard our hearts from being overly impressed with worldly power and wisdom?
8. What might it look like for Christians to seek to exercise influence in our world with worldly power and worldly wisdom (ie, “twisting arms”)? What might it look like for Christians to influence the world through godly strength and wisdom (ie, “washing feet”)?
9. What is one specific way you can walk more in “the way of the cross” during this season of your life?
10. Who is someone you can share the message of the cross with this week? Spend some time praying for the Lord to bring many to Christ through the power of the cross.

