**Sermon Title: The Faultline of the Church in a Christ-less Culture**

**Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 2:6-9**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to recognize God’s revealed wisdom and power in Jesus Christ and Him crucified.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 3 faultlines to recognize when it comes to natural vs. spiritual wisdom.**

**Introduction:**  Human based wisdom, will always blind the unbeliever from the wisdom of God, found in Christ Jesus and His Word. Human wisdom will hinder the believer from discovering divine truth and wisdom, and from spiritual growth and unity among the Body of Christ.

Humanity’s fall into sin has had a major impact on our being. In relationship to God there are five impacts.

1. We are **unfit** for God’s presence, fellowship and relationship.

2. We are unable to do God’s will. (**Romans 7:21ff**)

**John 8:34** Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.

3. We are **unrighteous** before God’s law. (**Romans 5:16ff; Galatians 3:10**)

**Deuteronomy 27:26** `Cursed *is* the one who does not confirm *all* the words of this law by observing them.' And all the people shall say,`Amen!'

4. We are **insensitive** to God’s Word.

5. We become subject to God’s **wrath**.

Due to original sin, Adam and Eve’s offsprings throughout humanity inherits a sin nature. “This corruption of nature is often called total depravity, which means that this inherent corruption extends to every part of the unsaved person’s makeup.”

[**Floyd H. Barackman, *Practical Christian Theology*, 4th Edition, p.298.**]

(**Romans 1:21-32; 3:9-18**)

**Genesis 3:6** So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

**Mark 7:20-23** And He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. **21** "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, **22** "thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. **23** "All these evil things come from within and defile a man."

**Job 14:4** Who can bring a clean *thing* out of an unclean? No one!

**Psalm 51:5** Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

Total inability means that, of himself, the unsaved person neither desires nor is able to do the will of God. [**Ibid. 298**]

**John 3:19-20** "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. **20** "For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

**John 5:40** "But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

**John 6:44** "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

**John 8:44** "You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it.

**Romans 8:7-8** Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. **8** So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

**I. The nothingness of unspiritual or natural wisdom. V.6**

**II. The necessity of spiritual or supernatural wisdom. V.7**

**III. The nuisance of unspiritual vs. spiritual wisdom. V.8-9**

**I. The nothingness of unspiritual or natural wisdom. V.6**

True divine wisdom starts and flows continuously like a river from the Gospel of Jesus Christ, this is the message we must be fixated on to deliver, declare, and are determined to proclaim.

The Apostle is referring to the revealed wisdom from God, written down, and that we read, study and listen to, in order to be saved and sanctified. (**1 Corinthians 1:24**)

The wisdom is revealed to those who have and are being saved by it. The word “mature” (teleios) refers to those person’s in whom the Holy Spirit dwells and in whom the life of the Holy Spirit directs. The contrast is between the mature man and the natural man. (**v.14**)

Since every true believer has received the Spirit of new birth, every believer is spiritual and can understand God’s wisdom, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (**John 3**)

**Ephesians 1:8-9** which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, **9** having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

A. The wisdom that comes to nothing is characteristic of this **age**. V.6a

Age (aionos) refers to a period of time, a historic age, or all periods of history. All human history is passing away. It is empty, futile, and wisdom that will come to nothing.

B. The wisdom that comes to nothing is characteristic of the **rulers** of this age. V.6b

The rulers of every age, which are the leading men, or people of authority, cannot claim to come to the knowledge and understanding of God’s wisdom and power, apart from the revelation of God Himself.

**II. The necessity of spiritual or supernatural wisdom. V.7**

A. The necessity to **speak** this wisdom from God. V.7a (**Ephesians 3:1-13**)

**Matthew 11:25** At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes.

**Matthew 13:10-13** And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" **11** He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. **12** "For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. **13** "Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

B. The necessity to speak the wisdom God **ordained**. V.7b

God predestined this wisdom before time began, and to give this wisdom to us, leading to our eternal glorification.

**III. The nuisance of unspiritual vs. spiritual wisdom. V.8-9**

A. **Unspiritual** wisdom always leads us out of the will of God. V.8

However ignorance of God’s mysterious plan on the part of those who reject or crucified Christ does not and will not excuse their crime, guilt, or judgment. Human wisdom could not bring them to knowledge of the guilt or their need for God’s salvation.

B. **Spiritual** wisdom always leads us according to the will of God. V.9

Paul is making a non-negotiable statement of eternal fact, that the wisdom of this world system is not able to discover rationally, objectively, subjectively, or empirically the things of God. The merely carnal mind is not able to know the deep spiritual things (foolish message/Gospel of Jesus Christ, or life’s meaning and purpose)!

**Conclusion:** This text teaches us that the things of God cannot be understood or attained by natural eyes, ears, heart, or feelings, but must be revealed by the Spirit of God, as they must be to all who believe.

In contrast to the wise of this age of human history, or this world system (that cannot even conceive of the greatness of God’s plan of salvation), those who love Christ both perceive and experience His gift of salvation, nor anything related to the true meaning of life.

Man cannot discover God, He must be revealed!

**Hebrews 1:1-4** God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,

**2** has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; **3** who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himselfpurged oursins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, **4** having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

**John 1:1-5** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. **4** In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehendit.

**John 1:14-15** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. **15** John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said,`He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'"