



THE CHURCH THE WORLD NEEDS | DON'T BE A BABY! (6)

October 17, 2021

1 Corinthians 2:14-3:4

PURPOSE

To discover and experience Jesus Christ in our midst
To cultivate mutually encouraging relationships
To participate in God's mission to the world

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

10 MIN

Share one "high" and one "low" from the previous week.

WORSHIP

10 MIN

OPENING PRAYER

Bless your servants, O God, and favor us with your steadfast love.
May your love flow through us like springs of living water,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days of our lives. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER—Psalm 111:1-10

¹Praise the Lord!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

²**Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them.**

³Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴**He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;
the Lord is gracious and merciful.**

⁵He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.

⁶**He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

⁷The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy;

⁸**They are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

⁹He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.

Holy and awesome is his name!

¹⁰**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever!**

SCRIPTURE READING

¹⁴The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

¹But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? ⁴For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not being merely human?

BIBLE STUDY 40 MIN

Summary and Connection

Here, at the end of chapter two and beginning of chapter three, Paul returns to addressing the Corinthians directly by explaining to them that the wisdom and knowledge they had been seeking after was not the wisdom and knowledge that would lead them to Christ. They had yet to be transformed by the power of the gospel. They were not spiritual people, but rather infants in Christ. In other words, they lacked the maturity and wisdom necessary to see the beauty of the gospel in its fullness. For Paul the evidence of this was in their continued divided and misplaced loyalty to either Paul or Apollos. For Paul, it is Christ who saves, Christ who unites, and therefore it is Christ who is worthy of our allegiance. This is the solid food the Corinthians are not ready to partake.



1. Looking at the Bible

What does the text say?

- Read the text twice. Each time listen carefully and notice what grabs your attention.
- In your reading and hearing of this passage, does it remind you of any other part of Scripture?
- What themes is Paul revisiting here that he touched on earlier in Chapters 1 and 2?
- Paul's using many terms here that are not endearing: Infants in Christ, merely human, people of the flesh...but he also calls them brothers.
 - » What does this say about the makeup of the church?
 - » How can Paul hold these two realities in tension?



2. Looking at Jesus

Already in these first two chapters Paul has spoken of the fact that Jesus Christ has become our wisdom, sanctification, redemption and now Paul makes this bold proclamation: We have the mind of Christ.

- What does it mean to have the mind of Christ?
- What might some obstacles be to living as though we have the mind of Christ?
- What are the implications for having the mind of Christ?

Application Question: How might the cross of Christ, which has been so much of Paul's focus up to this point, shape our calling to have the mind of Christ?



3. Looking at our Hearts

For a people who thought they were filled with wisdom about themselves and the world, Paul is calling the Corinthians infants in Christ who are not ready for spiritual food as a call to humility. Specifically a humility of the mind/intellect.

- How had the Corinthians exhibited arrogance or lack of humility?
- Oftentimes we think that being “spiritual people” whether us or others gives license to tell others what to do or how to live. How ought “spiritual people” (mature Christians) view themselves and treat others? Hint: The answer is humility.
 - » Why be humble?
 - » Why is it difficult to live in humility?

Application question: How does Paul’s understanding of being spiritually mature shape how we are to live with one another?



4. Looking at our World

What are we to hope for?

- Where do you think the Corinthians had put their hope?
- Where or in whom do you think Paul is redirecting their hopes?
- Often we are conditioned in our culture to rely on our own intellect and wisdom. How might this passage reshape our hope?
- How would the cross of Jesus help us to look at the world with both honesty and hope?
- How is the good news of Jesus both the milk and the solid food for the believer?

SHARING
15 MIN

Share your prayer requests, thoughts, hopes and fears for the coming week, and as you do consider how this passage might give light to what you are sharing.

KINGDOM PRAYER
15 MIN

Pray that we would see ourselves called by God.
Include other prayer requests.

SENDING
5 MIN

Go forth, relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not according to our works, but to God’s purpose and grace.