

# “Message Notes

---

## **A Humble Community**

1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5

Gospel-Centered Community, part 4

October 9, 2005

*Thus says the Lord,  
“Let not a wise man boast in his wisdom,  
and let not the mighty man boast of his might,  
let not a rich man boast of his riches,  
but let him who boasts boast of this,  
that he understands and knows Me,  
that I am the Lord who exercises  
lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth;  
for I delight in these things.”  
--Jeremiah 9:23-24—*

**grace**  
San Luis Obispo

# Message Outline

---

## **A Humble Community**

1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5

Gospel-Centered Community, part 4

October 9, 2005

### **I. The Gospel is ACHIEVED through humility.**

- A. Jews = religious, moralistic persons
  - Human problem = wrong behavior, lack of moral effort
  - Self-sufficient, self-saving, prideful, morally superior
  - God owes them power, position, and blessings
  - Sign-seeking, power-seeking
  - “Christ crucified” = scandalous and offensive
- B. Greeks = intellectual, humanistic, secularist persons
  - Human problem: lack of wisdom, education, enlightenment
  - Self-sufficient, self-saving, prideful, intellectually superior
  - God is non-existent, uninvolved or the giver of wisdom
  - Wisdom-seeking
  - “Christ crucified” = utter foolishness
- C. The Gospel
  - Human problem = independence and rebellion toward God
  - Shows the scandal of sin, our weakness and foolishness
  - Expresses God’s humility, love, grace and justice
  - Sinner=seeking
  - “Christ crucified” = the wisdom and power of God

### **II. The Gospel must be RECEIVED with humility.**

- A. Receiving the Gospel (Christ crucified) takes us there.
  - 1. We need righteousness, because we’re unrighteous.
  - 2. We need sanctification because we’re dirty.
  - 2. We need redemption because we’re slaves.
- B. Believing the Gospel (Christ crucified) keeps us there.
  - 1. Increasingly humble and broken before God
  - 2. Increasingly real and honest with others
  - 3. Increasingly free and confident in Christ in life
  - 4. Increasingly tolerant, patient and graceful toward others

## ***Growth Group Understanding Questions***

---

### ***A Humble Community***

*1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5*

*Gospel-Centered Community, part 4*

*October 9, 2005*

1. Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-2:5 together. Describe what was going on in Corinth? Was the community there in Corinth marked by humility and brokenness? If not, what was it marked by?
2. Paul speaks with sarcasm here about wisdom and power. Go through 1:18-2:5 and circle or mark all the times wisdom or power is mentioned. Now circle and mark the times the opposites of wisdom or power are mentioned.
3. Look at v. 25 and think carefully about it. How does the counter-intuitive, surprisingly humble Gospel (Christ-crucified) do what the wisdom of men and the strength of men cannot do?
4. This passage speaks of God's pleasure in saving through the Gospel and God's sovereign purpose in saving through the Gospel. In which verses? Can you find them?
5. Reread 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 and mark all the references to God, Christ and the Spirit. Now put these all together to construct a partial Biblical theology of the church. How do these references change the way we view and experience the Church?
6. Think about the mention of righteousness, sanctification (or holiness) and redemption in v. 30. What does it reveal about our desperate condition and need and our inability to boast before God?

## ***Growth Group Application Questions***

---

### ***A Humble Community***

*1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5*

*Gospel-Centered Community, part 4*

*October 9, 2005*

1. What was the most encouraging or challenging thing about our message/text this week? What was new? How did this message/text effect your experience at the Lord's Table this week?
2. Jews and Greeks are representative of two different types of people or two different worldviews. Compare and contrast using the outline. Think of specific people you know or segments of our culture that fit these categories. How are secular, humanist intellectuals striving to save themselves? How are religious moral people striving to save themselves? So is there really a difference between these worldviews in light of the Gospel?
3. How is the Gospel (Christ crucified) seen as scandalous and/or weak and foolish to folks you know today? How are these views of the Gospel related to pride, self-reliance and a misdiagnosis of the real human problem?
4. How is the Gospel a "third way", completely different and radically opposed to the way of religious moralism and the intellectual humanism? How does it break us, and then build us up?
5. How does initially receiving the Gospel take us to humility? How does continually believing the Gospel keep us in humility? Why should a deepening belief in the Gospel make us increasingly broken, but confident? Increasingly real and honest with others? Increasingly tolerant, patient and graceful toward others?