

A Christians Maturity is a Gift from God.

1 Cor. 2:6 – 16

Paul taught this church much, however, here the Apostle is letting this church know her state of understanding. In verse 1 Paul describes the spiritual condition of this church, “*And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom...*” It is believed that Paul’s first visit to this church was around A.D. 52, and it is also believed that Paul remained in this church around 18 months or 1.5 years. **Acts 18:1, 11** “*After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth;*” and in verse 11 “*And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.*” Since Paul came to a church with so many errors it takes a lot of time to correct errors. God slowly drips knowledge into us so that we can have time to grasp the understanding. Paul described this church and her understanding of God as “childish” in nature. V. 2 “*For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.*” Therefore, Paul elected “*determined*” to preach the most elementary sermons to this church that could be preached, a subject that every Christian should know, the gospel of Jesus Christ, “*Jesus Christ, and him crucified.*” In Chapter 3 and verse 1 and 2 Paul described this simplicity of preaching” V. 1 *And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. (2) I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.*” Paul said I “*could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal...*” The word “carnal” as is also the word “Gentile” sometimes is used as a Christians biblical knowledge level, it put the Christian on the lowest level on knowledge. Notice verse 3 in chapter 3 “*For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?* Because you do not act like educated Christians or a church that has been taught Biblical Truth. James wrote about the difference, **James 3:16-17** “*For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.*” There are all levels of churches, weak, learned, educated, over-educated, arrogant, self-righteous, and in some church their Pastors are responsible because these words apply to them personally. In some church the Pastor is a great asset and in others the Pastor is their greatest liability. There is noting

more harmful to a church than a Pastor that is arrogant or self-righteous. I learned as a young minister, “as goes the Pastor, so goes the church”. It means the Pastor is the teacher and he teaches with his attitude and most time the church goes in the direction of the Pastor. Sometimes changes are needed at the Pastors position, being appointed as Pastor in not a lifetime appointment regardless of what some say. Paul Pastored multiple churches, If the Lord leads another direction, it is time to move. Maybe the teaching is stale, maybe the church no longer cares about the Pastor, maybe the relationship between the two is breaking down. A church needs to move and not be still, and a Pastor and church relationship is a must, both must be aplicated by the other. A still church is an idol church, and an idol church is an unprofitable church. Even well-educated churches can be idol churches or act Gentile or carnal. A well organized, well educated, good church, should never act “Carnalish”.

Paul told this church in verse 4 “*And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.*” This church must have been “difficult” for Paul, draining him sometimes, Pastors do not have an easy job, it can be stressful. We must depend on God’s Spirit in everything, otherwise it will drain us of all energy, both mentally and spiritually. As Pastors sometimes it is very difficult, even in times battles, but even with the battles sometimes with the flesh we must lean more on the Holy Spirit. **2 Corinthians 12:9** “*And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.* The word “infirmities” means weakness. But as Pastors we must speak the truth, as God leads us. No matter what people say or do, no matter if people come for you to hurt you, you cannot fear man, even as a church we must move as the Holy Spirit leads, with strength and power. Listen to Paul in **Acts 18:9-10** “*Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.*” The battles do not always come from outside the churches, they do not always come from the world or Satan, sometimes the battles are in our own backyard. Paul no matter the opposition preached the gospel, he preached what God directed him. He had not fear of man, but of God, he was not weakened by man but of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit makes us weak to make us strong in Him.

Paul went on in verse 4 and said, “*And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:*” Which is all our sermons, we do not need enticing words, because we are not teaching to persuade man, we are here to teach Christians. Paul’s message to this church was simple, not to insult them but to teach them that their learning of Truth was weak. Sound preachers trusted the Spirit of God to work in the hearts of their hearers, as did Paul. Pastors or churches must not put their confidence in themselves, **2 Corinthians 3:4-5** “*And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward: Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;*” This should always be our strength, we have no strength or power, there are no enticing words of man that has real power. Listen to verse 5 “*That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.*” As Pastors and churches, we are all under the direct influence of God’s Holy Spirit. We are never on our own to preach for the Lord. No writer of the scriptures was independent of the Holy Spirit, and neither are God Pastors. No, they are not identical, every word of a Pastor is not inspirational, however, no Pastor’s accomplishments are his own. Paul was preaching the simplicity of the gospel because while a simple message it is the most powerful message in the bible, if powered by God’s Spirit. Romans 1:16 “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*” The message subject is only as important as God makes it.

A. Paul said, “we speak wisdom among them that are perfect”, what is “perfect wisdom”? V.

6

1. Wisdom – which is an understanding of God’s word, the deeper things of God. It is apparent that this church had little of that.
2. It is apparent this church was leaning on world wisdom and the two do not mix. Paul said in **V. 2** “*And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.*” – that is of this world, because worldly wisdom contradicts the wisdom of the scriptures.
3. Paul said, “*among them that are perfect...*” the word perfect for us means “complete” we are only perfect in Christ, never in the flesh.
 - a. Look at Job, **Job 1:1** “*There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed*

evil.” – He was not, what some call perfect but humanly speaking in God’s word he was complete or had a great understanding.

- b. **Ephesians 4:13-15** “*Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*”
 - c. Jesus told the rich young man, **Matthew 19:21** “*Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor; and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.*” – This is showing a “Complete and mature” Christians does what God commands and follows the Lord, AT ANY COST!
 - d. Paul wrote this to the church at Philippi, **Philippians 3:12-15** “*Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after; if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.*” – The word “apprehended” means - “to lay hold of so as to possess as one's own” Once we can treat the word of God as though it is our life then we become perfect of complete.
4. Paul went on to write, “*...yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:*”
- a. One must conclude that “*the wisdom of this world...come to nought:*” in other words, biblically speaking, human knowledge and understanding is worth nothing spiritually.
 - b. Paul wrote in **V13** “*Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth;*” – Man by nature does not

teach anything good about God or His ways. Human education has nothing to do with Spiritual understanding. They are not compatible.

- c. God said, **1 Corinthians 1:18-19** *“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.”*
- d. One cannot mature spiritually until we are biblically educated. Satan has the world blinded. **2 Corinthians 4:4** *“In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”*
- e. People cannot by nature possess any wisdom of God or the things of God. **Verse 14** *“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”* Spiritually people are dead and dead people do not learn, see, or hear. And being lost they hate God, no one wants to believe or learn from someone they hate. **Romans 8:6-8** *“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”*
- f. Spiritual knowledge that makes us complete is a revelation from God. Hid from the world of lost people but revealed unto babes in Christ Jesus. Listen to Jesus, **Luke 10:21-24** *“In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight. All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him. And he turned him unto his disciples, and said privately, Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see: For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.”*

B. *“But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom,”* V. 7

1. **Philippians 3:15** *“Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.”*
2. Scriptural knowledge, understanding, and wisdom, are all gifts from God. Everything of God is a mystery to the flesh.
 - a. **Romans 16:25 - 26** *“Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, (26) But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:”* – By “all Nations, he means not just to the Jews but also the Gentiles. The lost never have God’s mysteries revealed to them.
 - b. It’s a mystery because God has “hid” it from the non-elect, Satan was only able to blind the lost because God allowed him to talk Eve into eating the forbidden fruit because God allowed it. Adam is not the only one to hid, God hid all His truths from the lost. **Colossians 1:26 - 27** *“Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:”*
 - c. **Ephesians 3:2-9** *“If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: Whereof I was made a*

minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:” -All the works of God are a mystery to the lost, even salvation because the works of God is unattainable by the lost because it does not fit their understanding. Like salvation, how could a person be saved without works, or election, how could a god that loves everyone not choose all, or how could a god who loves everyone ever allow persecution or cause persecution? They cannot put the knowledge of God together in their mind; therefore they hate God.

- d. **1 Corinthians 2:13 - 14** "*Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*" – Dead people have no ability to understand spiritual things, because to them spiritual things are “*foolishness unto him*” “*...neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*" Spiritually dead people are likened to dead people, they cannot see, hear, nor understand because the Holy spirit is not teaching them.
3. Its apparent that God’s mysteries were folly to the Corinthians and that was a proof of their blindness and incapability to see the truth. This is why it is a blessing to us who understand, God’s Spirit has revealed it to us.
 4. God said He kept His wisdom hidden. “*even the hidden wisdom,*” V. 7
 - a. This word “hidden” means "to conceal from, to keep secret" -Vines
 - b. Jesus said, **Luke 10:21** “*In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.” – this means the smartest lost people on earth cannot understand God’s word nor His doctrine. Just because people are smart does not mean they are correct in the bible.*

- c. **Ephesians 3:9** “*And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:*” The word hid here is the same Greek word.
 - d. **Colossians 1:26-27** “*Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:*”
- C. “God ordained before the world unto our glory:” V. 7
1. What was “ordained before the world” the works of God. **Acts 15:18** “*Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.*” What are the works of God? “...*who doeth all these things.*” V 17c – It has been done or if it’s going to be done, God has done and will do it, AS HE HAS ORDAINED.
 2. **Isaiah 45:5-10** “*I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else. I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things. Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the LORD have created it. Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands? Woe unto him that saith unto his father, What begettest thou? or to the woman, What hast thou brought forth?*” Only Ignorance in people Christians or lost that question God’s power, authority, or works.
 3. In this passage let us focus on V. 26 **Acts 17:24-28** “*God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far*

*from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.” – Not just our residence for dwelling, but our entire life’s bounds have been set by God. **Job 14:5** “Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass;” **Ephesians 2:10** “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”*

4. Therefore, it is not impossible thing that God’s gifts extend to our understanding of His word.

D. “Which none of the princes of this world knew” V. 8

1. Why did they not know? Because God has “hid it from them”. Human knowledge does not recognize deity knowledge.
2. This includes the Jews, from the highest rank down.
 - a. Saul of Tarsus was high ranking and brilliant in Jewish doctrine of the Old Testament. He held the coats of them that stoned Steven to death. **Acts 7:58** “*And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.*” Paul later admitted that this was him. **Acts 22:20** “*And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by, and consenting unto his death, and kept the raiment of them that slew him.*” Saul was an evil Jew toward the Church and Christians.
 - b. The word “princes” means - a first (in rank or power): - chief (ruler), magistrate, prince, ruler. Including the Jewish leadership.
3. The world today also doesn’t understand God, from the leadership down they hate God because they do not know Him. They hate Him because He is God and Sovereign.
4. The non-true church or counterfeit churches hate God because they really do not know Him. They do not know His Sovereignty; in fact, they hate it.
5. There are a lot of true Believers in Jesus Christ whom God has saved, and Jesus died for who have never learned of God.

6. There are even some Believers that are knowledgeable of God who have forgotten God, that's sad, but not as sad as a church who has forgotten God. Judgement will be worse for them that have forgotten than for those who have never known.
7. God said of the Jewish leadership, "*for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.*" V 8b
 - a. **Acts 3:14-18** "*But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses. And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers. But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.*" He was speaking to some of them that had some part in the crucifixion of Jesus. **Acts 3:12-13** "*And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, **Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this?** or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go.*"
 - b. **Acts 13:26-31** "*Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent. For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, **they have fulfilled them in condemning him.** And though they found no cause of death in him, yet desired they Pilate that he should be slain. And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulchre. But God raised him from the dead: And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people.*" God foreordained every bit of it, had they known who He was, they would have never crucified the Son of man.

E. *“Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.”* V. 9 Why doesn't God call upon us?

1. No one, outside of the Son of God has any idea what God has ordained in our life.

But our life is ordained of God.

2. It is universally believed that this is quoted from Isaiah **64:4** *“For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him.”*

a. **Isaiah 64:6-8** *“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities. But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.”* – What could the thing God created add anything to God?

b. Even as Christians we do not know what God has ordained for us, but we need to understand that He has ordained it. **Ephesians 2:10** *“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”*

c. The first thing we need to understand is our salvation is entirely God's gift to us; and it must be so, because we cannot make it or get it for ourselves; we have no power of our own to make it for ourselves.

d. When God said salvation is “not of works” in V 9 He means no work on our part at all. There is nothing a person can do to bring about their salvation, we cannot repent, choose, make a decision, pray a prayer, we cannot even believe of Jesus Christ, salvation is absolutely by grace, and it is 100% a gift from God. *“...that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:”* Eph. 2:8b

e. It is only when the Holy Spirit enters the spirit of a soul that we know anything.

3. Believers are God's workmanship Believers are God's workmanship from start to finish. God never consults a sinner nor a believer about the works of His new creation in Christ, no motion of man's will, thought, or desire does He seek. God has ordained

and God causes us to act according to His ordained will. We have nothing to add or subtract from God's ordained will.

4. *“neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.”*
 - a. But we are promised that everything is to our good. **Romans 8:28** *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” – Because all things are in God's hands and power.*
 - b. We know because God promised and God controls everything. **Romans 8:29 - 30** *"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. (30) Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."*
 - c. The mature Christian never doubts, never worries, and never ask God why?
 - d. Maturity is putting the scriptures in context and trusting God. **Ephesians 1:11-14** *“In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, **being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:** That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. **In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”***
- F. “But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit:” V. 10
1. The Mysteries of God are no longer mysteries once God reveals them to His elected hearers. God is selective in who He allows to understand His mysteries. **Matthew 13:11** *“He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.”*
 - a. Jesus, in His model prayer for us said, **Matthew 11:25-26** *“At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father; Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.”* God only reveals as

He chooses. Everyone is not obligated to hear or to understand anything about God or His word, mysteries, or anything else. God owes no one anything.

- b. **Matthew 16:17** “*And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.*”
 - c. **Colossians 1:25 - 27** “*Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; (26) Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: (27) To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:*”
2. God does this revealing of His mysteries by the power of the Holy Spirit, not by our power of learning. **John 16:13 - 15** “*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. (14) He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. (15) All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*”
 3. **1 Corinthians 12:8-11** “*For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.*”
 4. **Romans 11:33-36** “*O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.*” **This takes into our next point!**

G. “the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.” V. 11

1. How could man know anything about God? They are at enmity with God.
2. God said, "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;" Romans 1:28
 - a. There are three things about mankind in the natural state. 1. They know very little of themselves. 2. They know even less of their fellowman. 3. They nothing at all about God.
 - b. Since the human mind, in a natural state is at enmity with God, then the True God does not fit their approval. Therefore, in reality they hate God because He did not meet their specifications for their approval. **Romans 8:7** "*Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*" **Rom 1:28a** "*And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge...*" Vincents Word Studies defined this, "*They did not think God worth the knowing.*"
 - c. The human race put's God on trial in their wicked minds and hated Him, so they refused Him in their own minds, and they also hate Him, because the human mind is about hating what we do not like.
 - d. And because of this, God gave them over to a "reprobate mind" or a rejected mind or worthless mind.
3. God said, "*the things of God knoweth no man...*" Why, "*For what man knoweth the things of a man...*" V. 11 they only understand and comprehend fleshly things that make them haters of God. They love mammon, remember mammon is a fictitious god that is created in a wicked mind which a wicked God they will believe and trust.
 - a. Matt. 6:24 "*No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*"
4. In the flesh, man only knows the things of man, they have no, absolutely no understanding or spiritual things.
5. "*so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.*"
 - a. Why the Holy Spirit? God said in verse 10, "*But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.*" The

words “deep things” are the depth of God, or what is also called the mysteries of God.

- b. Only the Holy Spirit can assure us of understanding the truth of God, whether in word or the reality of God, there is no question the Holy Spirit is our teacher of all things about God.
 - c. **Deuteronomy 29:29** *“The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.”*
 - d. So, the gift and the blessing to believers is our understanding, our wisdom, and our reaction to the truth.
- H. *“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God”* V. 12
- 1. *“Now we have received...the spirit which is of God”* - This is without question the Holy Spirit.
 - a. Before you believed in Jesus Christ as your Saviour, the Spirit of God entered your body and made it the temple of God. God is nowhere that He is not the Ruler. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** *“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”* – The word “temple” means sanctuary, our bodies are the place God is.
 - b. *“the Holy Ghost which is in you”* “in you” means - a fixed position in place.
 - c. **2 Corinthians 6:16** *“And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”*
 - d. It is like the church building, it is a “sanctuary when we are assembled in it, because God is here. **Ephesians 2:20 - 22** *“And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”* - When we are not here it’s an empty building.

2. *“not the spirit of the world,”* – Vincents Word Studies defines this as, *“The phrase means the principle of evil which animates the unregenerate world; not the personal spirit of evil or Satan”*
 - a. John Gill says, *“the sinful carnal disposition of the men of the world,”* This is the worldliness of mankind, which is human nature, which is to walk in sinfulness and in total depravity.
 - b. God described it in **Romans 3:12** *“They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.”*
 - c. **Ecclesiastes 7:20** *“For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.”*
 - d. Satan brings evil into the world, the world system is his to control, but the spirit of the world is the evil in the hearts of lost people.
 - e. Satan has people blinded by giving them the sinful system they want, people want sin, they drink it like water. **Job 15:16** *“How much more abominable and filthy is man, which drinketh iniquity like water?”*
 - f. **Romans 1:28-32** *“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”*
3. *“...but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.”* – This is the maturity of the Christian, understanding all the things God freely gives us by the Holy Spirit.
 - a. Let us start with the obvious - the blessings of redemption - the pardon of sin, justification, sanctification, the divine favor and protection, and the hope of eternal life.

- b. The word's "freely given to us of God" means - "graciously bestowed."
Everything of God is from God and is freely given by God's grace as He chooses.
- c. **Isaiah 55:1** "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." - **Matthew 5:6** "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: **for they shall be filled.**"
- d. How about His deep mysteries of wisdom and His word. **1 Corinthians 12:7-11** "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will." – Whatever you are as a Christian, whatever your level of understanding of God and His word, it is all God's gift "to every man to profit withal." Means - "towards the profiting." Withal means – the whole to profit withal is all the collective profit is the gift of God, as He chooses to distribute it.
- e. The gifts of God are freely given as God chooses, our hunger for the word, our desire to learn, and our learning is also a gift. God fulfills all our desires.
Ephesians 2:10 "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."
- f. **1 Corinthians 12:4 - 6** "Now **there are diversities of gifts**, but the same Spirit. And there are **differences of administrations**, but the same Lord. And there are **diversities of operations**, but it is the same God which worketh all in all."
- I. "we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual." V. 13
1. There is a difference between spiritual and fleshly. Romans 8:4 - 5 "That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after

- the Spirit. (5) For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.”*
2. The problem with the religious world, even those called “Christian Religionist” is their mindset is fleshly.
 - a. Paul wrote here “*we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth...*” – Human wisdom does not belong in spiritual teaching.
 - b. The mind of man, fleshly understanding, remember verse 12a “*Now we have received, not the spirit of the world...*” This is the carnal mindset built upon lies and sinfulness. God will condemn sin and demand spiritual walking, while “the spirit of the world” excuses sinfulness.
 - c. For example, a fleshly mindset can never solve spiritual problems. This is why God told Christians to settle issues among the brethren and not fleshly courts. **1 Corinthians 6:1, 5 - 6** “*Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?*” (5) *I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren? (6) But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers.*” – Spiritual matters can only be resolved among spiritual minded people.
 3. In seeking spiritual matters with spiritual people, you learn what God demands. “*but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*” V. 13b
 - a. Peter wrote in **1 Peter 4:11** “*If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*” – we all need the naked and open truths of God’s word, as inspired by the Holy Spirit. The wisdom of man does not fit in the conversation.
 - b. Fleshly people cannot comprehend Spiritual because it is hidden from them. It is like a foreign language you do not speak.
 - c. No one can understand the bible who is not saved, it is impossible.
- J. “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God” V .14

1. Who is “*the natural man*”? Vines defines it this way, “*describes the man in Adam and what pertains to him*”
 - a. Jude put it this way, **Jude 1:19** “*These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.*” The word “*sensual*” is the exact Greek word as “*natural*”. Both are describing the lost soul in Adam.
 - b. This is a person without the Holy Spirit. Remember what Paul wrote in **Romans 8:7-8** “*Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*” It should be every Christians desire to PLEASE GOD but never the natural man.
 - c. Adam desired to please God every moment of every day, until the fall. **Genesis 3:8-10** “*And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.*”
2. The natural man doesn’t care about pleasing God because they hate God.
 - a. (1) They do not know God.
 - b. (2.) The natural man’s mind “it is not subject to the law of God” because they are lost and have a dead spirit, dead people have no laws.
 - c. (3.) and they are hiding behind the lies of Satan.
3. Jesus said of the natural man in **John 14:17** “*Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*”
 - a. The lost natural man “*seeth him not*” They cannot see God because they hate Him, they cannot see the Holy Spirit because He never revealed Himself to them, and they never see Jesus because of their dead spirit.
 - b. And because of this they “*neither knoweth him*” they do not know God, not any of the three parts of the Godhead.
 - c. No one can know God unless the Holy Spirit has entered into them.

4. Solomon wrote in **Ecclesiastes 8:4-11** “*Where the word of a king is, there is power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou? Whoso keepeth the commandment shall feel no evil thing: and a wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment. Because to every purpose there is time and judgment, therefore the misery of man is great upon him. For he knoweth not that which shall be: for who can tell him when it shall be? There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it. All this have I seen, and applied my heart unto every work that is done under the sun: there is a time wherein one man ruleth over another to his own hurt. And so I saw the wicked buried, who had come and gone from the place of the holy, and they were forgotten in the city where they had so done: this is also vanity. Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, **therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.**”*
5. V. 14b “*for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*”
 - a. “*they are foolishness unto him*” The word “foolishness” means - silliness, that is, absurdity, -Strong’s – the lost sees God and His works as, "without reason" or "senseless, without reality"
 - b. **1 Corinthians 1:18-21** “*For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.*”
 - c. God went on to say in V. 14b, not only do they not know them, but “*neither can he know them,*” – because they do not have the knowledge or understanding or wisdom to know them because everything of God goes against human nature and human understanding.
 - d. They refuse to know them because they hate God. **Romans 3:11** “*There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.*”

- e. Everything about God in truth is a revelation and everything goes against human nature. **1 Corinthians 2:12 - 13** "*Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*"
 - f. Verse 14b "*because they are spiritually discerned.*" The words "spiritually discerned." Means – without sense of proving or coming to a judgment on. – they cannot see how it fits together, like a puzzle they cannot fit the pieces.
 - g. No person saved or lost can comprehend God or His word without the Holy Spirit teaching and revealing it. The lost does not get that aid of God.
 - h. **Romans 1:24 - 25** "*Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.*"
 - i. Remember after the fall, Adam, sinning, turned his back and fled from a holy God. God had to take the place of the seeker. God is the seeker today, **John 6:44** "*No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*" – Because his human nature is at enmity with God.
 - j. We need to cast out from our mind's the idea that any human being has ever had a holy thought, or love for a The Holy God, in his natural heart!
 - k. This is why God gives grace, His sovereign grace goes ahead of, and brings into being, **all human response to God**. There is no such thing as a lost person seeking God, all humans are hiding from God because they hate God in their hearts.
6. Human nature is a "universal human apostasy from God".
- a. The Saints of God are told in **Psalms 34:11 - 16** "*Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD. (12) What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good? (13) **Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. (14) Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and***

pursue it. (15) The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. (16) The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth."

- b. Speaking of the natural man God said in, Ps 14:3 "*They are all gone aside*", Ps 53:3: "*Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*" , Isaiah 53:6 "*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*" And in Malachi 2:8 "*But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the LORD of hosts.*"
7. "*because they are spiritually discerned.*" – They are “spiritually” unable to examine the scriptures, because their spirit is dead and they have not the Holy Spirit to teach them.
- a. **Ephesians 1:17 - 19** "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: (18) *The eyes of your understanding being enlightened;* that ye may **know** what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, (19) And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of **his mighty power,**"
 - b. Why did the Jewish leadership and others crucify Jesus? **1 Corinthians 2:7 - 8** "*But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: (8) Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.*" Spiritually they had no true knowledge and understanding who Jesus truly was.
 - c. Only those who have been spiritually enabled by the Holy Spirit can spiritually understand God.
- K. V.15 “But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.”
1. The word “judgeth” means – to scrutinize, or to search or investigate, - or to discern. – in order to learn so that you can judge your walk-in life as concerning God’s laws.

- a. The soul who is enlightened by the Holy Spirit has learned, but learning is not enough, and **learning makes us more responsible to walk accordingly to God's laws.**
 - b. "spiritual judgeth all things" – That God has taught him, because if God has not taught us then we are spiritually ignorant and unlearned.
2. "...yet he himself is judged of no man." V. 15 This is a Christians biggest flaw, judging other Christians. We simply do not know what work God has done in a believer.
- a. We simply do not know what work God is doing in another believer.
 - b. We all, from the Pastor down need to be careful in our judging of other believers.
 - c. We cannot force people to believe, we cannot "pound" knowledge, understanding, and wisdom into a person's head.
 - d. Paul said to the church at Corinth, **1 Corinthians 3:1 -2** "*And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. (2) I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.*" When dealing with God's people and especially God's churches, lots of godly love is needed not judgment.
- L. "For who hath known the mind of the Lord" V. 16
- 1. A believer has responsibilities to God.
 - a. Once a person is saved, we become responsible to God to obey and follow His word.
 - b. God said of lost people, **1Co 2:14** "*But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*" God also said of the lost soul in **Romans 8:7 - 8** "*Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*"
 - c. However, once a soul is saved then they are given bundles of gifts from God, to understand God's mysteries and one mystery is His word.
 - d. **V. 16b** "*As Christians, who receive the blessings of God, who learn of His statutes for us, we are responsible not only to learn them, but to also walk in them.*"

- e. While God gives understanding, knowledge, and wisdom as He chooses to each one of us, we are responsible to study and learn. **2 Timothy 2:14 – 15** “*Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers. Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*” **Hebrews 5:11 - 14** “*Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”*
- f. Paul wrote these words to the church at Colossi in, **Colossians 2:1 - 5** “*For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh; That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words. For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ.*”
- g. This is or should be every pastor’s prayer for every believing soul in Jesus Christ and especially his church membership. **Colossians 1:9 - 14** “*For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath*

delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:"

2. As Christians, who receive the blessings of God, who learn of His statutes for us, we are responsible not only to learn them, but to also walk in them.

M. "But we have the mind of Christ."

1. The question here is, "*For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him...*" and the answer is "*But we have the mind of Christ.*" Albert Barnes said, "*The argument of Paul is this, "No one can understand God. No one can fully comprehend his plans, his feelings, his views, his designs. No one by nature, under the influence of sense and passion, is either disposed to investigate his truths, or loves them when they are revealed. But the Christian is influenced by God."*
2. **Isaiah 40:12 - 15** "*Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance? (13) Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counsellor hath taught him (14) With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding? (15) Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing."*
3. If you do not have the mind of Christ, you will never understand God.