



# The Difference Maker

## RECAP

**This week's focus: True wisdom comes from God revealed to us by His Spirit.**

God's word is eternal and timeless. It doesn't just tell us what used to happen, but it tells us what always happens. It's the only book where when you begin to read it, it begins to read you. The only book where the author wants to meet with you and help you learn what He's written in it. So, as you open the book of 1 Corinthians ask God to reveal His heart for you and the people around you.

The book of 1 Corinthians shows us that in the middle of chaos, the Gospel gives you clarity. Paul's first letter to the young church in Corinth is a clear voice speaking in the middle of chaos. He elevates the Gospel above all their problems, issues, and divisions. Like a beacon of light in a storm, the Gospel is the lighthouse that gets them through the storm of chaos raging around them.

Corinth was one of the most affluent cities in the Roman Empire. It was a port city that became a hub of technology, economic activity, and a favorite place to vacation for those who were "up and coming". Because of its location and thriving economy, the city was incredibly diverse, filled with people from all walks of life, backgrounds, and religion. One can see why Corinth in the first century is often referred to as the Las Vegas of the Roman world.

The city boasted of the largest number of Greek and Roman temples. Greek philosophy was in abundant supply and a dominant cultural force. The people were affluent, progressive, spiritual and philosophical. Their city was an open port to all kinds of influences. In Acts 18, this is where Paul found himself preaching the Gospel and planting a small church.

After Paul left Corinth, he began to hear that the church wasn't doing so well. Word had gotten back to him that the church was on the verge of coming apart at the seams. The church was faced with all kinds of problems. In response, Paul writes a letter to offer guidance, teaching, and encouragement.

The first four chapters deal with divisions in the church. In classic Corinthian style competing groups were creating divisions around their favorite apostles to gain status. They focused on all the wrong things for all the wrong reasons. They had lost their original purpose as a church and now division began to grow like a cancer. In chapter 1, Paul's remedy for division was to unify the church around the conviction, importance, and priority of the Gospel. Elevating Jesus above preferences and secondary issues would produce in them a Gospel unity that would hold the young church together.

In Chapter 2 Paul continues to address divisions in the church by focusing on Godly wisdom rather than human wisdom. Wisdom that is only accessible through a revelation of God's plan. Wisdom that seems like foolishness to the world. A wisdom that doesn't come from human intellect, rhetoric or persuasive speech but by a divine revelation from God's Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the trinity sent to guide you into all truth, revealing the mysteries of God. He teaches you about God, gives counsel to your heart, convicts you of sin, changes you from the inside out and empowers you for life and ministry.



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### SHARE (5-10 min)

1. Icebreaker Question: Would you rather take a pill a day for nutrients and to feel full, but never eat anything again or eat whatever you want but never really feel full?

### STUDY (about 30 min) Read 1 Corinthians 2

1. What stood out to you about the passage or message on Sunday? Is there anything that was unclear, or that you have questions about?
2. To what sources do people most often look for wisdom? (i.e. Google/therapists) How are these sources limited when it comes to God and spiritual matters?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-16. How would you characterize Paul's approach to the Corinthians? What do you think is the mystery of God that has been revealed?
4. When you think about those who persuaded you or helped you put your faith in Christ, how did they (perhaps unknowingly) follow Paul's example with the Corinthians?
5. Read 1 Cor. 2:13. When you think of the Holy Spirit, what comes to mind? According to Paul in this passage, what does the Spirit do?
6. In vs 14-16 why do people in the past and present fail to understand who Jesus is? What does it mean to have the "mind of Christ"?
7. Read John 14:15-17. According to Jesus, who is the Holy Spirit and what is His role in your life? What does an advocate (Paraclete) do?
8. When have you experienced the Holy Spirit's counsel/guidance/conviction? How does the Holy Spirit use God's Word to speak to you?
9. Read Galatians 5:22. What attribute of the Holy Spirit do you need or desire more of in your life?

### SUPPORT (15 min)

Pray Journal: Take time in your meeting to journal your groups prayer requests. Remember that we operate out of confidentiality. What is shared in the group, stays in the group. Prayer requests are not meant to be gossip material.

Pray for those people in your life that consider the things of God "foolish". Ask the Holy Spirit to bring revelation into their minds and hearts. Pray also that the Holy Spirit would guide you and give you a heart of obedience to do what He says.