

Only A Fool

Younger Generation Church • January 16, 2009

Each day we make a decision as to who will consider us a fool. Are you a fool in the eyes of the world or in the eyes of GOD? Falling in love with Jesus is foolish.

- ¹ *My son, do not forget my teaching,
but keep my commands in your heart,*
- ² *for they will prolong your life many years
and bring you prosperity.*
- ³ *Let love and faithfulness never leave you;
bind them around your neck,
write them on the tablet of your heart.*
- ⁴ *Then you will win favor and a good name
in the sight of God and man.*
- ⁵ *Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;*
- ⁶ *in all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight.*
- ⁷ *Do not be wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD and shun evil.*

– Proverbs 3:1-7 [NIV]

In GOD we trust, because we are in love with Jesus.

¹⁸*Do not deceive yourselves. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a "fool" so that he may become wise. ¹⁹For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness"; ²⁰and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile."*

– 1 Corinthians 3:18-20 [NIV]

In the eyes of the world, we look foolish, but in the eyes of God we are wise.

The Cross: The Irony of God's Wisdom

¹⁸⁻²¹*The Message that points to Christ on the Cross seems like sheer silliness to those hellbent on destruction, but for those on the way of salvation it makes perfect sense. This is the way God works, and most powerfully as it turns out. It's written,*

I'll turn conventional wisdom on its head,

I'll expose so-called experts as crackpots.

So where can you find someone truly wise, truly educated, truly intelligent in this day and age? Hasn't God exposed it all as pretentious nonsense? Since the world in all its fancy wisdom never had a clue when it came to knowing God, God in his wisdom took delight in using what the world considered dumb—preaching, of all things!—to bring those who trust him into the way of salvation.

²²⁻²⁵*While Jews clamor for miraculous demonstrations and Greeks go in for philosophical wisdom, we go right on proclaiming Christ, the Crucified. Jews treat this like an anti-miracle—and Greeks pass it off as absurd. But to us who are personally called by God himself—both Jews and Greeks—Christ is God's ultimate miracle and wisdom all wrapped up in one. Human wisdom is so tinny, so impotent, next to the seeming absurdity of God. Human strength can't begin to compete with God's "weakness."*

²⁶⁻³¹*Take a good look, friends, at who you were when you got called into this life. I don't see many of "the brightest and the best" among you, not many influential, not many from high-society families. Isn't it obvious that God deliberately chose men and women that the culture overlooks and exploits and abuses, chose these "nobodies" to expose the hollow pretensions of the "somebodies"? That makes it quite clear that none of you can get by with blowing your own horn before God. Everything that we have—right thinking and right living, a clean slate and a fresh start—comes from God by way of Jesus Christ. That's why we have the saying, "If you're going to blow a horn, blow a trumpet for God."*

– 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 [Message]

A fool in love will do foolish things. Let me take the job only a fool would do.

Going Further

GODencounters: Pursuing a 24/7 Experience of Jesus by A. Allan Martin,
Shayna Bailey, & Lynell LaMountain
Blue Like Jazz by Donald Miller
Christ and Culture by H. Richard Niebuhr