

God Calling

1 Corinthians 1:18–31

A. The Call That Divides the World

1. Our world is filled with voices competing for our attention, loyalty, & trust.
2. But among all the voices we hear, there is one call that matters above all others.
3. Throughout Scripture, we see that God is a calling God.
4. One of the most repeated words He uses is the word “*Come.*”
5. He called Noah, Moses, David, prophets, etc & He is still calling people today.
6. The gospel is not information to be considered; it is demanding a response.
7. Paul reminds us here that God’s call often confounds human expectations.
8. God does not call the way the world calls, appealing to pride or cultural values.
9. In fact, God’s call divides the world in two.
10. The same message is heard by everyone—but not everyone hears it the same way.
11. Today, Paul helps us understand three things: Who, How & Why God calls.

B. God’s Call Is Centred on the Cross

1. Paul begins by focusing our attention on the content of God’s call on the cross.
2. To the world, the cross sounds ridiculous, foolish, outdated, even offensive.
3. There are only two responses to the same message.
4. Foolishness to those perishing, or the Power of God to those being saved.
5. The problem is not the message—it is the heart of the listener.
6. Those who are perishing evaluate the cross by human standards.
7. They ask, *Where is the brilliance? Where is the proof? Where is the power?*
8. God answers by pointing to the cross and saying,
9. *There. That is My wisdom. That is My power.*
10. The cross overturns human wisdom.
11. God deliberately chose a means the world would reject.
12. The cross exposes the limits of philosophy, religious signs, & intellectual pride.
13. Jews demanded miracles, while Greeks searched for philosophical wisdom.
14. But God chose neither. He chose Christ crucified.
15. A stumbling block to Jews, & foolishness to Gentiles.
16. But to those who are called—Christ is the wisdom and power of God.
17. God’s call does not flatter our intellect—it confronts our rebellion.
18. It does not appeal to our pride—it calls us to surrender.

C. God’s Call Defies Human Expectations (vv. 26–29)

1. After pointing us to the cross, Paul turns the spotlight on the believers themselves.
2. The church in Corinth did not look impressive on paper.
3. Neither does the church today. This is no accident.
4. God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, & the strong.
5. Why does God do this? Paul says: “*So that no one may boast before Him.*”
6. God’s calling strips us of every reason to brag.
7. God does not call us because we are worthy—He calls us to make us new.

D. God Calls the Foolish (v. 27)

1. God called Zacchaeus, who cheated others to accumulate advantage & success.
2. God also called foolish Jonah, who thought he could run from God.
3. Many still try to do the same, foolishly thinking we can escape God's call.
4. Yet God calls the foolish—to wisdom and eternal life.

E. God Calls the Weak, The Lowly and Despised (v. 27-8)

1. God called the prodigal son—weak, reckless, and out of control.
2. He squandered his inheritance, surrendered to bad influences & ended up broken.
3. God has always called weak people to do mighty things.
4. D. L. Moody was untrained, yet God used him to bring thousands to Christ.
5. Why does God use nobodies? So His power is clearly seen & lives changed.
6. So people turn not to the messenger—but to the Saviour.
1. God called the woman at the well after 5 marriages, & now living in shame.
2. Jesus gave her living water for her spiritual thirst, then sent her back as a witness.
3. Just as He did for the demon possessed man in Luke 8.
4. He called prostitutes and lepers—to the amazement of the Pharisees.
5. He is still calling outcasts today—because of His love.
6. Why does God choose the unlikely, the foolish, weak, lowly & despised?
7. So that no one may boast before Him.
8. God does not call us because we are impressive, but because He is gracious.

F. God's Call Is Rooted in Christ Alone (v. 30-31)

1. Paul now brings us to the heart of the gospel.
2. Salvation does not begin with our decision—it begins with God's initiative.
3. From start to finish, salvation is God's work, everything is found in Christ.
4. All Wisdom, Righteousness, Holiness, & Redemption.
5. In Christ, we lack nothing. He is sufficient. We can't add or improve on Him.
6. Paul concludes: *"Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord."*

G. Conclusion

1. Have you ever thought you were beyond the reach of God's love?
2. Have you believed your sins were too serious to be forgiven?
3. The message of the cross is still being proclaimed.
4. God is still calling people to Himself through Jesus Christ.
5. The question is not whether God is calling.
6. The question is whether we are listening.
7. If the cross still sounds foolish to you, the invitation today is to look again.
8. See the wisdom and power of God revealed in Christ.
9. And if you have answered God's call, then walk humbly, boast only in the Lord, and live as a testimony of His grace.
10. God calls ordinary people so the world may see an extraordinary Saviour.
11. So that all glory belongs to Him alone.