

# The Foolishness of the Cross

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**Questions:** Does ketchup go on mac and cheese? Are you a first alarm person or a snooze person in the morning? Are you a cat or dog person?

It's been said that the world can be divided into two kinds of people. People are diverse and our differences make life interesting and fun.

**Read** 1 Corinthians 1:17-25

The big question Paul is asking in 1 Corinthians is: **What does it mean to follow Jesus and be the church?**

**Questions:** What is your response to the symbol of the cross? Have you ever had an experience where explaining what you believe sounds crazy?

**Read** 2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 Corinthians 1:18 again.

**Based on 1 Corinthians 1:22-23, the two groups are Jews (demand signs) and Greeks (look for wisdom):**

1. The Greeks thought the message of the cross was not wise.

**Platonic Dualism:** the world is split into higher realm that is spiritual, eternal, priority, and a lower realm that is physical, temporary, and unimportant.

**Questions:** How does this “thinking” show up in our world today? How does a Christian world view differ?

**As followers of Jesus,  
we are called to ‘embody’ our faith.**

2. The Jews thought the message of the cross was weakness.

**Read** Matthew 12:40

The Jewish religious scholars didn't understand that the Messiah's victory would come through suffering.

Moralistic Therapeutic Deism:

- Moralistic: God blesses and takes to heaven those who try to live a good, decent life.
- Therapeutic: the central goal of life is to be happy and feel good about yourself.
- Deistic: God exists, but he's not really part of my everyday life; he is just there for emergencies.

**Questions:** How does this “thinking” show up in our world today? How does life look different if you are serving Jesus, or expecting Jesus to serve you? Is there an adjustment you need to make in your life?

**Read** 1 Corinthians 1:26–31

**Question:** What truths are in these verses that are celebrated in communion?

