

2. Due to carnality (2:6-3:23)

A. God's wisdom - characterized (2:6-13)

1) This is the wisdom Paul speaks

2) For the mature (6)

3) Not worldly in origin (6, 8)

At that time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. (Mt 11:25)

4) The message is cryptic (7-9)

... the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, (Col 1:26)

... these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look. (1 PeT 1:12)

5) Beyond human ability to understand unaided

"I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. (Lk 10:21)

B. God's wisdom – communicated (10)

1) God revealed wisdom to “us”

2) Holy Spirit

3) We have received the Spirit (12)

However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. (Ro 8:9)

4) Result (12)

5) Method (13)

6) Implications:

C. Natural person vs. Christian person (2:14)

1) Natural man

2) Christian person (2:15-16)

3) APPLICATION

D. Carnality prevents the Christian from understanding (3:1-22)

- 1) Divisions are sign of immaturity & worldliness (3:1-4)
 - a) Paul spoke previously to them as immature, fleshly (1)

 - b) Still infants (1-2)

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. (Heb 5:11-12)

- 2) Ministers are (5-9)
 - a) Servants of God

 - b) Ministry is all about God!

 - c) APPLICATION

- 3) Building analogy for those who serve (10-15)

4) Temple analogy (3:16-17)

5) Boasting in men is foolish (18-23)

E. APPLICATION

3. Due to disrespect of Apostles and ministers (4:1-21)

A. Paul refuses to be treated like a sect leader (4:1-5)

B. Why boast in who you follow? (4:6-7)

C. Ridiculous for Corinthians to boast in light of apostles' experience (4:8-13)

D. Paul's responsibility as spiritual father (4:14-21)

E. APPLICATION