

John 3:16-18: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, *that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.* ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.”

4. The Message of the Cross is _____ to those who are _____.

1 Corinthians 1:18-31: “*For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,* but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate. ²⁰ Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is *the wise man?* Where is *the scholar?* Where is *the philosopher* of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²² *Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom,* ²³ *but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles...*”

- **The Cross is _____ to the Jews** (1 Cor. 1:22-23; Matt. 12:38; 16:1; John 6:30; Deut. 21:22-23).

Galatians 5:11: “Brothers, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case ***the offense of the cross*** has been abolished.”

- **The Cross is _____ to the Gentiles / Greeks** (1 Cor. 1:22-23; Acts 17:16-34; 1 Cor. 3:19).

5. The Message of the Cross is the _____ of God to _____.

1 Corinthians 1:18: “*For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*”

1 Corinthians 1:22-31: “Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ *but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,* ²⁴ *but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.* ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than man’s wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man’s strength.”

Romans 1:16-17: “*I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.* ¹⁷ For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

FINAL THOUGHTS

How do you respond to the message of the cross of Christ?

Is the cross a scandal to you – something that causes offense? Is it foolishness – because it doesn’t fit with worldly wisdom & philosophy?

Or, is the message of the Cross of Christ something you believe?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SMC Vision Dessert – Sunday November 8th 6-8:30 pm @ SMC.
All are invited to join the celebration as we enjoy a potluck together and then hear about the VISION of SMC.

How to Study the Bible – November 13-14th (Friday evening-Saturday) @ SMC. Registration deadline is Sunday November 8th at SMC.

QUESTIONS:

Take some time to pray for each other.

- 1). What did you learn from Sunday's message?
- 2). Why did Pastor Cory call the message, *'The Scandal of the Cross'*?
- 3). How was the cross a *'scandal'* in Paul's day? Who found the cross to be scandalous in his day? Why? See point #4 in the outline.
- 4). How is the cross *'scandalous'* today? How do people view of message of the cross today?
- 5). Paul states that the message of the cross is *'foolishness'* to some in his day (the Greek is 'moria' – our English word 'moron' comes from the Greek). Who found it foolish? Why did they find it foolish?
- 6). What did Jesus accomplish on the cross? (See 1 Peter 3:18; Hebrews 9:28; Colossians 2:13-15; Ephesians 2:13; Romans 5:8-11).
- 7). What is the Gospel? (See 1 Corinthians 1:17; 15:1-4).
- 8). Have you accepted the Gospel? Do you believe in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ?

Prayer

SERIES: LIFE IN THE FATHER'S HOUSE

Today's Message:

"The Scandal of the Cross of Christ"

1 Corinthians 1:17-25

Pastor Cory Anderson / 11.01.09 / SMC

Introduction:

1. The Message of the Cross is _____ to the Gospel.

1 Corinthians 1:17: "For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power."

1 Corinthians 15:1-4: "Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. ³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures..."

2. The Message of the Cross can be _____ of it's Power.

1 Corinthians 1:17: "For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power."

3. The Message of the Cross _____ Humanity.

1 Corinthians 1:18: "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."