

A Conflict of Wisdom

1 Cor. 1:18-31

Introduction:

- A. Ever-present conflict between conventional wisdom of the world and revealed wisdom of God.
- B. Conventional wisdom changes with each generation – wisdom of God remains static.
- C. Our faith in the wisdom of God is tested daily.
 - 1. Often overwhelmed and confused by wisdom of “experts.”
 - 2. Often treated like ignoramus if choose Bible over conventional wisdom.
- D. Five subjects test Christian’s faith in the wisdom of God over conventional wisdom of this world:

Discussion:

I. The Origin Man.

- A. Conventional wisdom now says man evolved.
 - 1. “Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.” (Rom. 1:22)
 - 2. Would have to have had first pair to make first human baby — how.
 - 3. Would have had to come from eternal matter or created matter.
 - 4. “Animal rights” movement rooted in evolution.
- B. Bible says man was created by God on 6th day of creation.

II. The Nature of Depraved Behavior.

- A. Conventional wisdom’s two most popular approaches to what Bible calls sin.
 - 1. Either accept is as “different,” but not necessarily wrong.
 - 2. Or else treat is as a disease — physical or psychological.
- B. Bible treats it as moral problem — result of moral decision.
 - 1. Can be repented of — overcome by faith.
 - 2. 1 Cor 6:9-11: How “cured” without modern medicine, genetics or psychology?

III. The Operation of the Home.

- A. “Experts” of this world have removed two things from homes:
 - 1. Over-under relationships.
 - 2. Effective child discipline.
- B. Those who respect God’s wisdom will retain both:
 - 1. Over- under relationships (Eph. 5:22-24; 1 Pet 3:5,6; Eph 6:1.)
 - 2. Discipline (Eph. 6:4 (ASV); Heb. 12:5-11; Prov. 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15.)

IV. The Function of the Church.

- A. Some “experts” think know more about running church than the Lord.
 - 1. End justifies means.
 - 2. Give “customers” what they want.
 - 3. Change with the times.
- B. God knows best for the church — always be weak and foolish to worldly wise.
 - 1. In worship (Matt. 15:9).
 - 2. In work: Evangelize, Edify, and Relieve needy saints.
 - 3. In organization.

V. The Salvation of Man.

- A. The source of his salvation – not self (humanism), or social/economic reforms.
- B. The means of his salvation – blood, gospel, etc.
- C. The conditions of his salvation (Mark 16:15, 16; Acts 2:38; 1 Pet. 3:21)

Conclusion:

- 1. Read again verses 27-31.
- 2. Are you ready to choose God’s wisdom over the wisdom of this world?