

**HOLY MANY IN UNHOLY SOCIETY:**  
**A study in I and II Corinthians**  
AMEN Bible Study 2013-2014

**The Message of the Cross**  
**I Corinthians 1:1-2:5**  
**September 12, 2013**

- 1:1-9 I. God has called us to be His people.**
- :1 A. through authoritative apostles  
*"Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes."*
- :2a B. for holiness  
*"To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified..."*
- :2b C. in community  
*"...together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:"*
- :3-7 D. with grace gifts  
*"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge – even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ,..."*
- :8 E. with no end  
*"...who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ."*
- :9 E. into fellowship with Christ  
*"God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."*
- 1:10-2:5 II. God has called us to be His united people.**  
*"I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment."*
- :11-17 A. We have a tendency to quarrel over personalities.  
*"For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers."*
- 1:18-2:5 B. We have a tendency to forget.
- :18-25 1. Foolishness becomes wisdom.
- a. to the perishing
- folly to the Greeks  
*"For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.' Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made follies the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe."*
  - scandal to the Jews  
*"For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles..."*
- b. to the called  
*"...but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men."*
- :26-31 2. Nobodies become somebodies.
- a. where you came from  
*"For consider your calling, brothers..."*

- simple  
*"...not many of you were wise according to worldly standards..."*

- weak  
*"...not many were powerful..."*

- common  
*"...not many were of noble birth..."*

- nothing

b. what God did

*"But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are..."*

c. so what

*"...so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'"*

2:1-5

3. Chickens become lions.

a. chicken

*"And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ... And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom,"*

b. lion

1. faithful proclamation

*"For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ... but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power..."*

2. powerful faith

*"...that your faith might now rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God."*