

Corinth

- Paul established the Corinth church on his 2nd missionary journey
- Priscilla and Aquila, 1.5 years
- The letter written AD 55, during his 3rd missionary journey, in Ephesus
- The church was largely made up of Gentiles

Corinth





Corinth

- A major cosmopolitan city and trade center
- A wealthy seaport
- Many cultures and religions mingled
- Under Roman colony, law and customs
- Many gods are worshiped
- Integrated into governmental affairs, trade guilds, social clubs, festivals and everyday life

1. Man's Wisdom

- Greatly influenced by philosophy (love of wisdom)
- Philosophy = the study of general and fundamental questions about existence, knowledge, values, reason, mind and language
- Socrates, Plato, Aristotle
- Professional orators charged a fee for attendance at the entertaining rhetorical displays

1. Man's Wisdom

- I Corinthians 1:12

What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul" or "I follow Apollos" or "I follow Cephas" or "I follow Christ"

- Rallying various church leader, using worldly wisdom to evaluate them, these loyalties led to intellectual pride and created a spirit of division in the church
- Boasting that their group is wiser and smarter
- Worldliness



1. Man's Wisdom

- I Corinthians 1:20

*Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe?
Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made
foolish the wisdom of the world?*

- I Corinthians 3:21

So let no one boast in men.

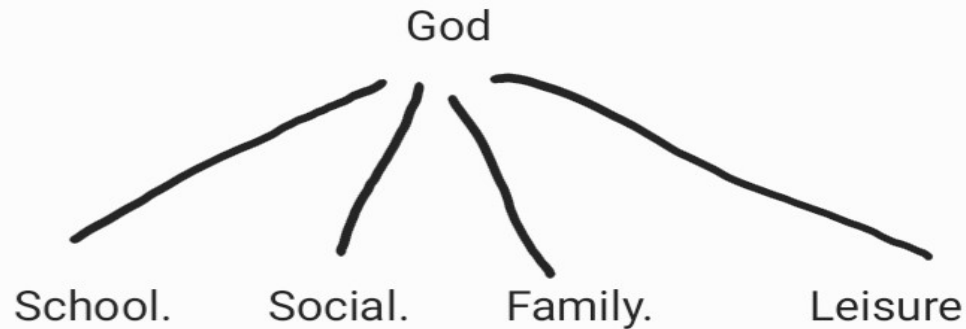
1. Man's Wisdom

- I Corinthians 1:26-29

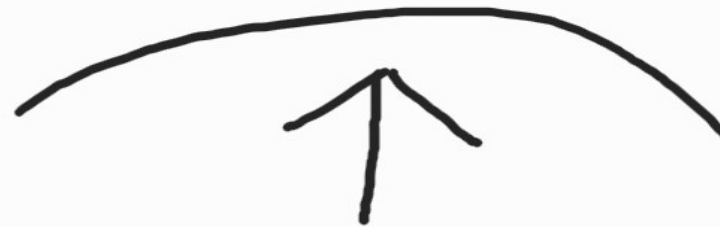
For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong, God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God

- God's Wisdom = Christ

God's Wisdom



God's Wisdom



Man's wisdom

- Science.
- Mathematics.
- Physics.
- Chemistry.
- Biology.
- Sociology
- Arts
- Languages
- Geography
- Music



2. Pagan idolatry

- Many gods and many temples in the city
- The temple of Asklepios, the god of healing
- The temple of Aphrodite for goddess Aphrodite
- Fall into sin, immoral behavior, unholy relationship

2. Pagan idolatry

- I Corinthians 5:1

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife

- I Corinthians 6:9

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived, neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality

2. Pagan idolatry

- I Corinthians 6:11

You were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God

- I Corinthians 6: 19-20

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.



Corinthians

- Corinthians are like chameleon, animals that are to match the environment
- Corinthians do not want to leave their culture, values and old lifestyles, filled with philosophy, pagan idolatry and immorality
- Christians are not to blend in with the world and accept its values and life styles
- Christians should have God's wisdom, holy living and Christ centered new lifestyles



3. Other issues

- Christian marriage
- Food offered to idols
- Corporate worship
- The Lord's supper
- Spiritual gifts
- Love
- Resurrection

I Corinthians 13

Love is patient, love is kind. 

It does not envy, it does not boast,
it is not proud. It does not dishonor others,
it is not self-seeking, it is not easily
angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil
but rejoices with the truth.

It always protects, always trusts,
always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails.

-1 Corinthians 13:4-8

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Sharing Time

- In Singapore, what kind of culture, value or lifestyle that you have adopted that you think it does not have or against Christian's value?