

神的智慧（四、粉碎骄傲的智慧）——哥林多前书 1:26-31

The Wisdom of God, Part 4, The Pride-Crushing Wisdom —1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Introduction and Outline

- Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:26–31; Proverbs 30

1 Corinthians 1:22–25 (NASB1995)

²⁶For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; ²⁷but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, ²⁸and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, ²⁹so that no man may boast before God. ³⁰But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, ³¹so that, just as it is written, “Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

- **【Keyword】 Boasting.** This passage calls us to examine our hearts—what is it that we truly want to boast in?
- Outline:
Title: The Wisdom of God, Part 4, The Pride-Crushing Wisdom (vv.26-31)
 1. What Is Boasting (related scripture)
 2. Wisdom Chooses the Nobodies (vv.26-28)
 3. Wisdom Abolishes Self-boasting (v.29)
 4. Wisdom Boasts in the Lord Alone (vv.30-31)

What Is Boasting (related Scripture)

- Boasting isn't just bragging out loud or showing off. Everyone, deep down, has something they take pride in.
- In Scripture, boasting has many synonyms, such as “glory”, “rejoice”, or “praise”, all describing aspects of boasting. For example:
 1. **Glory in** – What your heart takes pride in or “glory” in is what your heart boasts in (cf. Philippians 3:3).
 2. **Rejoice** – What brings you joy often reveals what you boast in (cf. Psalm 105:3).
 3. **Praise** – What you praise out loud is often what your heart boasts in. (cf. Psalm 106:47).
- **【Test】** A Christian's phone wallpaper says: *"I know I'm smart, strong, resilient, ambitious, kind, considerate, humorous, easy going, have leadership skills, attentive, passionate, humble, love life, creative, dearly loved and valued by God. Nothing has the power to change it."*
- **【Result】** Now, if this quote doesn't make you feel extremely nauseated, or worse, if you like it and feel encouraged by it, you really need to hear this passage. That is definite self-boasting.

- **1 Corinthians 1:29** “so that **no man may boast** before God.” This is exactly why God chose to save us! But sadly, many Christians seem to end up boasting even more—as if being saved adds new credentials for pride: “I’m deeply loved, I’m God’s treasure...”
- **【Context】** It is exactly this kind of self-boasting that led to the problems in the Corinthian church—division, quarrels, party spirit (see 1:11–12). Everyone was **aligning themselves with different leaders** in order to **boost their own image** and **appear wiser or more spiritual**.
- **【Diagnosis】** The problem with self-boasting is the “self”, not the “boasting”. Boasting is ultimately a reflection of one’s values, and everyone has some ultimate value that they boast in. And ultimately, **all of boasting falls into one of two categories**: either **boasting in oneself** (v.29), or **boasting in the Lord** (v.30). **Before a person comes to faith in Christ, all their boasting, no matter what form it takes, is essentially self-boasting.**
- **【Symptom】** One of the signs of self-boasting is division and factions within the church. So the next time something stirs up a **feeling of rivalry or hostility** in you toward someone else, take a moment to reflect: *What is it, deep down, that I’m trying to boast in here?*
- **【Treatment】** At our conversion, a fundamental change took place in the content of our boasting. But after conversion, we must **continue to learn and grow in God’s wisdom**, by which only can we **crush the prideful desire that still lingers in us and tempt us to boast in ourselves**.

Wisdom Chooses the Nobodies (vv.26-28)

- “God has chosen the foolish things of the world... the weak... the base things, the despised, and the things that are not”: In other words, God deliberately chose **a whole bunch of nobodies!** This is the kind of wisdom He operates with: the wisdom of choosing what the world sees as worthless.
- “There are not many wise, not many powerful, not many of noble birth”: Does “not many” mean there are still some? Sure—but don’t ever think you’re one of them! Every now and then, there might be a Christian whom the world sees as smart, capable, or influential—but those are rare exceptions. By and large, true Christians are people the world considers insignificant nobodies.
【Application (half-joking)】 Look around at the people sitting around you—do you see any celebrities, intellectual elites, top-tier professionals, or powerful leaders? I see none. (Okay, almost none...)
【Application (serious)】 Have you noticed how some Christians love **using celebrities in evangelism**? But the whole purpose of the gospel is to **crush** our pride—not feed it! And yet, when it is known that some pastor has a PhD from a famous university, suddenly everyone’s eyes light up. That’s a red flag!
【Diagnosis】 This is a kind of *spiritual celebrity syndrome*. Sure, they’re “stars” in the church and not in the world—but the heart motive of their followers is often the same: **trying to boost their own sense of pride by associating with someone impressive!**
- “God chose... the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are.” In Greek culture, “*the things that are not*” is the worst insult you could throw at someone. In their philosophy, *existence* is the

most basic value of any being. So when Paul says God chooses the “nonexistent” ones, he’s basically saying, “God chooses such total scums that, by the world’s standards, might as well not even exist.”

【Contrast】 Remember the example we gave earlier? “I’m smart, strong, kind, thoughtful, deeply loved by God, and full of every good quality!” If that were truly the case, then God wouldn’t even choose me.

【Principle】 Here’s how God’s wisdom works—He **chooses the nobodies who have nothing, to bring down the somebodies who think they have something**. If you’re a “somebody,” God won’t choose you. God chooses the world’s nobodies.

- “He might shame the wise... shame the strong”: That shame will be fully revealed on the Day of Judgment. But even in this life, God often brings the proud to some kind of shame. Just look at the Corinthian church. Isn’t their factious division a crying shame?

Proverbs 11:2 “When pride comes, then comes dishonor.....”

Proverbs 29:23 “A man’s pride will bring him low...”

【Take heed】 Shame isn’t just for nonbelievers. When we Christians show signs of prideful self-boasting, we ought to feel shame immediately. And if we don’t, know for sure that God will certainly bring us to shame one way or another.

Wisdom Abolishes Self-boasting (v.29)

- “So that no flesh may boast before God”: Really, what can a bunch of nobodies boast about?

【Example】 One time I praised a coworker for his excellent service, to which he immediately responded, “**I’m just a recycled piece of trash.**” And I thought, you know what? That’s exactly true! That really is the kind of material God chooses to use—trash!

【Principle】 If you don’t think you’re but a piece of trash, God can’t use you. The moment you think you’re something special, you’ll want to show off yourself—and then it’s no longer God’s glory on display, but your own boasting.

【Application】 As servants of God, we should all have this attitude: “**I’m just a recycled piece of trash.**”

Wisdom Boasts in the Lord Alone (vv.30-31)

- “But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus”: The reason you’re in Christ isn’t because of your own wisdom, strength, achievements, or good character. You didn’t use your smart brain to figure your way into God’s kingdom. You didn’t use your strong arm to push your way in. You didn’t stack up good deeds like a tower to climb your way up and proudly walk into the kingdom. **You didn’t get yourself in — God brought you in.**

- “And God made Him to be our wisdom, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption.” That means, if we have anything at all to boast in, it’s only because we’re in Christ Jesus. All these good values we have are gifted to us through Him. For example:
 1. **Wisdom:** The wisdom of the world leads to senseless conclusions such as “we evolve from monkeys.” But even the simplest person, when he believes the gospel and becomes a Christian, immediately possesses a much better understanding of life than all the experts, scholars, and professors of the world.
 2. **Righteousness and Sanctification:** One is a legal term, the other a moral term, both pointing to a life of perfect and blameless character. Non-believers go to great lengths to boast about their character—until the shameful things they do in secret come to light. But when the most morally broken person becomes a Christian, he immediately receives a kind of righteousness and sanctification (holiness) that even the greatest worldly saint could never earn.
 3. **Redemption:** Redemption originally refers to a transaction—it’s when a buyer pays a high price to free a prisoner from captivity. People in the world are stuck in slavery to sin, jumping from one sinful craving to the next. But the gospel of Jesus sets the Christian’s soul free, so they can freely live for God’s glory and no longer be pushed around by sinful desires.
 4. More can be added to the list: He’s our **Way**, our **Truth**, our **Life**, our **Strength**, our **Joy**, our **Hope**...—all these are reasons we can boast in the Lord!
- “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord”: The certain expression of such boasting in life is diligent efforts to pursue the Lord!

【Application】 When a Christian is all about career success, or constantly obsessed with their car or house, or shuttling their kids from one event to another, all without making time to read the Bible, pray, or serve in the church—we can’t help but wonder: *Do they really know where their boasting should be?*

Jeremiah 9:23–24 :“Thus says the Lord, ‘Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,’ declares the Lord.”