

## 4 • Christ: Wisdom in the Flesh

**“What is WISDOM?”** The simple definition we’re using is **“knowing which way to go.”** One of the great points of God’s revelation to mankind is that he has not only provided a wealth of written wisdom, but wisdom walked among us in the flesh.



In **Mark 6:1-3**, we hear people in Jesus’ hometown of Nazareth marveling, **“Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him?”** What were they seeing?

Do you remember where we started this series? **1 Corinthians 1** introduces the fact that so much of **“the wisdom of the world”** views the message of the gospel as **“folly.”**

For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach \_\_\_\_\_, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. (**1 Cor 1:22-24**)

Notice how **1 Corinthians 1:30** makes a key point crystal clear:

And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ wisdom from God...

**Wisdom walked among us in the flesh.** What is wisdom?

**Knowing which way to go**, which is exactly why Jesus consistently said things like:



**“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and \_\_\_\_\_ me.”** (**Luke 9:23**)

In fact, Jesus would even go so far as to say:

**“ \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”** (**John 14:6**)

Jesus is **“the wisdom from above”** (**James 3:17**) in the flesh.

**So what does all of this mean for us?** Let’s listen carefully to the call of **Colossians 3**:

Let the word of Christ \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (**3:16-17**)

Our Creator has provided everything necessary in order to help us **“reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God’s mystery, which is Christ, in whom are \_\_\_\_\_ all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge”** (**Col 2:2-3**).

## For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ What happened in **Mark 6:1-4**? How could people be astonished at the “wisdom” of Jesus and “such mighty works done by his hands” while at the same time taking “offense at him”? What was the problem? Where was the breakdown? What can we learn from this example?
- ▶ What did Paul mean in **1 Corinthians 1:23** when he described the message of “Christ crucified” as “a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles”?
- ▶ If we turn our back on “Christ crucified,” in what ways are we actually missing out on “the power of God” (**1 Cor 1:24**)?
- ▶ Let’s carefully think through the profound claim in **1 Corinthians 1:30**. What does Paul mean by describing Christ Jesus as he “who became to us wisdom from God”? If that’s true...
- ▶ Jesus’ words in **John 14:6-7** are profoundly important. How would you rephrase his claims in your own words?
- ▶ Practically speaking, what does it mean for “the word of Christ” to “dwell in” us “richly”? How does that come to be? Scanning **Colossians 3:16-17**, what difference can the word of Christ really make in our lives, individually and together?
- ▶ **Colossians 2:2** describe wonderful blessings— “the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God’s mystery.” What do you think Paul means by describing these blessings as “treasures” that are “hidden” in Christ?

## For NEXT Wednesday:

- ▶ Next Wednesday we’ll conclude our series by exploring one of the most important questions we can ask in any situation: “**What’s the wise thing to do?**”