

# WE AGREE TO DISAGREE

(Part 2 of 2)  
January 31, 2022

**1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-20 NLT – (18)** The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God. **(19)** As the Scriptures say, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and discard the intelligence of the intelligent.” **(20)** So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world’s brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish.

Spiritual wisdom is made possible by means of the personalized work of God in our lives. What needs to be known to man will be revealed by God. But our relationship plays a serious role. We must be in fellowship with God. Though God has revealed to us His inspired, written Word, believers need illumination to give us understanding. This is the work of the Holy Spirit, through the word of God, within the mind of a Christian that causes him to supernaturally learn, understand and apply the things of God.

It is the voice of God through the Word by means of the Holy Spirit becoming personalized to us. Illumination does not involve new revelation; rather it involves God giving a believer understanding of the meaning and application of Scripture in the midst of their own experiences.

My personal opinion and practice is to avoid debates. Winning or losing tends to depend on the skillfulness of the debater, and not on the evidence. Paul speaks about avoiding the worldly "wisdom" and, in simplicity, preaching Christ (**1 Corinthians 1:18-25**). Paul depends upon the Holy Spirit to convict men of the truth (**1 Corinthians 2**). In **2 Corinthians 2:17** and **4:2** Paul speaks, once again, about avoiding worldly methods of communication. (Some, of course, would differ with me in my opinion that debating is a worldly/fleshly method.) In addition to the texts I have already mentioned, I would find the following texts to provide me with guidelines in this matter: **2 Timothy 2:14-26** and **James 3:13-18**

As I read the Book of Acts, Paul "reasoned" in the synagogues (**Acts 17:2-3; 18:19**). I don't think this is debating, but a reasoned presentation, based upon the Scriptures. My guess is that if Paul were asked the question you have raised he would say, "Preach the word. . . (**2 Timothy 4:2**). People are converted by the preaching of the Word, and they are also disciplined in the same way.

**SCRIPTURE READING:** **1 PETER 3:15-16**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** It is better to change an opinion than to persist in the wrong one.

"A JOURNEY OF THE HEART"