

5. Why is keeping Christianity weird not a call to retreat from our world?

6. How can you guard your heart against spiritual pride, keeping God's grace central to your faith?

7. Looking back over this week's sermon and study, what one thing is most important for you to remember and apply?

### **Missional Application**

God calls us to keep the cross central to our faith, boldly proclaiming the power and wisdom of God.

### **Christ Connection**

Paul reminds believers that the gospel overturns human expectations and robs us of any ability to boast in our salvation. Jesus is our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption; therefore, selfish boasting and divisions have no place among God's people.

## **The God Who Directs His People (Part 2)**

"Keep Christianity Weird"

1 Corinthians 1:18-29

When we try to make our faith sound normal and fit in, we lose the essence of it; we make it into something other than what it is, and it loses its power.

At the core of Christian faith is a very weird, counter-cultural event.

Crucifixion was not only a torturous way to die, it as a shameful and humiliating way to die. It was ugly. Your cloths were torn off, and you were lifted up for everyone to see you essentially naked. You spent hours gasping for air. It was a public torture. It was calculated to humiliate. And there was nothing heroic about it.

### **HOW TO KEEP CHRISTIANITY WEIRD**

1. **Put up a good fight against the consumer faith that threatens to rule in your heart.**

1 Corinthians 1:18,24

"When we treat faith like a consumer product, we look at what the Bible says and choose exactly what we want from it, we take only what we want from it, and then we move on. Consumer faith puts the focus on what we can get out of it." (Brett McCracken)

"Religious consumerism is hardwired into the human heart; this is natural. The gospel is calling us to something supernatural." (Ed Stetzer)

How can we make good, God-honoring choices when it comes to our faith without being consumer-driven?

- Don't take the weird out of it.
- Seek equipping for service.
- Serve.

## 2. Give up on achieving cultural respectability and acceptance.

1 Corinthians 1:18,24

"It is not possible to be faithful and popular simultaneously." (John Stott)

We need to develop resilient Christians, but that's not a call for retreat; it's a call to grow deeper in our faith and bolder with our faith.

The cross may be weird to people on a trajectory to eternity without God, but to those who are "being saved," it's the power and the wisdom of God.

## 3. Let go of spiritual pride.

1 Corinthians 1:28-29

"One of the most offensive things about the cross of Christ has always been its leveling aspect, giving 'insider' access to prostitutes, tax collectors, and the pariahs of society just as much as to religious and cultural elites." (Brett McCracken)

## Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-31. Why is the message of the cross considered to be so foolish back then and today?
3. Keeping Christianity weird, by keeping the counter-cultural message of the cross front and center, helps fight a consumer mentality when it comes to our faith. What are some of the ways we are tempted to treat our faith as a consumer product?
4. How do you fight a consumeristic attitude toward faith, toward God, and toward his church in your life?

## Family Discussion Questions

1. Who are some spiritual leaders in our family's life (whether in person, through books or conferences, or through social media)?
2. In what ways can it be tempting for our family to listen to the voices of those leaders above God's Word?
3. How can our family work to stay unified and encourage unity in our churches, small groups, and relationships with other believers?