

GREATER THAN



DISCUSS: What groups were you in growing up? Which ones did you want to be in? Were you excluded from some groups? Share what it was like. How did this change as an adult?

READ: 1 Corinthians 1:1-17

Q: What are the distinctive things about the church that Paul describes in verse 2?

Q: What is the big problem Paul had to address with the Corinthian church? What reasons does he give as to why this was wrong?

READ: Verses 18-29

Paul contrasts God's apparent foolishness with man's wisdom. To many the Christian faith seems weak & foolish.

Q: In what ways would the message of the gospel seem foolish to many today? (e.g. the idea of a God, talking about sin, science disproves God, outdated. See also verse 23). Why do you think God meant it that way?

(Not for the arrogant or those puffed up with own wisdom).

Q: Do you sometimes feel or are made to feel foolish because of what you believe? Why would verses 27 and 28 be an encouragement?

APPLICATION:

Q: What groups are there in our church? How do you pick the groups you belong to? Are they people 'just like you'? In verse 10, Paul says there should be NO divisions. Have we got any divisions (for example young and old, long termers v new at church)?

Q: How representative of the Shire are we? What sections of our community are not represented in our church? What can we do to show that we are truly the people of God?

Q: How best should we respond to people in our church who are marginalised – see diagram? Who might they be and how should we include them?

