God's Tools Ray Stedman

- I. Introduction. Text: I Corinthians 1:26-31.
- II. The wisdom of God is often mistaken for foolishness.
- III. There were not "many" that were mighty among them.
 - A. Often God delights in setting aside the impressive things of men for His glory.
 - B. Sometimes God uses the "mighty," but not because of their talent or ability.
 - C. The church has become too fascinated with bigness.
 - 1. Ministry and prestige does not make ministry effective.
 - 2. God deliberately chooses the weak and the obscure.
- IV. God seeks to shame the wise because He is against human boasting.
 - A. He does this because self-sufficiency is an illusion.
 - B. Pride is the idolatrous worship of self.
- V. The secret of true wisdom is Christ.
 - A. Wisdom is a true perception of what is—the nature of reality.
 - B. Wisdom distinguishes what is true and what is of worth.
 - C. Wisdom blends truth and love.
- VI. The order of wisdom.
 - A. Wisdom begins with the gift of righteousness.
 - B. Sanctification follows.
 - C. Redemption—restoration to usefulness—is the result.
 - D. It is God who changes, not man.

Application questions:

1. Why does God like to use the unimpressive? Explain.

2. What does wisdom look like? Who do you know that models this well?	
3. Through what process is true wisdom attained? Explain.	