



Exposing the lies  
our culture tells us.

## Lie #3: Knowledge is Power

### INTRODUCTION – Learning From The Third Reich

When Hitler began his rise to power in Germany, he campaigned on a 25-point platform that included a vigorous nationalism, emphasis on education, raising the standard of health, and the promotion of “positive Christianity”. At the time, he seemed like a hero. Now we can look back and ask, why didn’t people see where he was taking the nation? It should also make us ask, what in our own culture is leading us away from God’s ideal that we might tend to ignore until it’s too late?

### Exposing The Lie

- Technology...

Nothing wrong with efficiency and productivity – unless they become ultimate values in any society.

- News...

HOW THE NEWS MAKES US DUMB: THE DEATH OF WISDOM IN AN INFORMATION SOCIETY, By C. John Sommerville

There is only one reason for daily newspapers and TV news shows...to create an information industry. You can’t grow a news business if you only publish when something really relevant happens. There is no predictability in your product. So every day must be treated as equally important.

*Thomas Jefferson:*

*“The man who never looks into a newspaper is better informed than he who reads them.”*

- Religion...

Acts 19:13-16  
John 17:3

Colossians 2:13-23

Philippians 3:10-11

### Detoxifying With Truth

- Wisdom is power.

*Two kinds of Greek “wisdom”...*

- *Sophia* = The ability to see the big picture, to fit particular pieces of knowledge into a larger understanding of life and history and the world, and to make judgements accordingly. Obtained through study, thought, and as a gift from God (e.g., **1 Corinthians 1:24; 12:8; Ephesians 5:15; James 1:5; 3:17**).
- *Phronesis* = The ability to notice relational details and to act accordingly; to act with prudence and shrewdness in light of particular situational factors. Obtained through intuition and experience (e.g., **Matthew 7:24; 10:16; Luke 16:8; Romans 12:16**)

- Grace is power.

**2 Corinthians 12:9**

- Love is power.

**1 Corinthians 8:1**

- KnowING is power.

**Matthew 4:19; 9:9; John 1:43; 10:27; 21:19,22**

**John 14:6-9**

### CONCLUSION – Knowledge & Wisdom In A Manger

**John 17:3**

### HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

#### WARMING UP...

1. While reviewing this week’s message (taking your time with any specific texts that are points of interest for your group), talk about what most intrigued, surprised, perplexed, encouraged, frustrated or challenged you.

#### LOOK TO THE BOOK...

2. Read Paul’s challenge to the lie “knowledge is power” in **1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5**. A) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? B) In what ways would a message about a crucified Messiah be a “stumbling block” to Jews (representing religious people) and sheer foolishness to everyone else? C) Paul says that Christ himself is the wisdom and power of God. What does this imply about how we obtain wisdom and power? D) It appears from this passage that the first generation of Christ-followers were not distinctly educated or powerful people. Is there any significance to this? E) Paul claims to have won his converts, not through wise rhetoric and persuasive argument but through supernatural power (**2:4-5**). For those of us today who don’t have gifts of healing and miracles, how might we still apply these verses in our efforts to proclaim the gospel of Jesus? Brainstorm examples applying to the church as a whole, The Meeting House specifically, and your own personal life.

#### SO WHAT?...

3. Knowledge may not be power, but knowing Jesus is our source of power, grace, wisdom, and love. What does it mean to “know” Jesus. How do we relate to someone we can’t see or hear? Talk about practical ways you “know” Jesus in your life.

**Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, December 21, 2008**