

WISDOM

“Wisdom is the right use of knowledge. To know is not to be wise. Many men know a great deal, and are all the greater fools for it. There is no fool so great a fool as a knowing fool. But to know how to use knowledge is to have wisdom.” Charles Spurgeon

The word “wisdom” appears in the Bible over _____ times.

Proverbs 9.10: The _____ of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

A precondition to being wise is having a reverence for God as all powerful, all knowing, and all loving.

James 3.13-17: 13 Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. 15 This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

WISDOM FROM BELOW

People can be very smart, incredibly knowledgeable, come from great families, have lots of fancy degrees, but still be flat out dumb.

Two Marks of Worldly Wisdom:

First: Bitter _____

Jealousy is that feeling that someone else has something that you should have. It’s a natural human emotion that stems from our inbred sin nature. That’s why it’s the 10th commandment: You shall not covet. Coveting is looking out at someone else’s stuff and thinking it should be yours.

Jealousy, a marker of false wisdom, ultimately stems from _____.

Margaret Thatcher: “The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people’s money.”

Second: Selfish _____

Christians should be the best leaders, bosses, accountants, teachers, doctors, architects, construction workers, and salesmen in the world. Why? Because we know based on Colossians 3:23 that we work for the Lord.

Selfish ambition says it's all about _____ Kingdom; Selfless ambition says it's all about _____ Kingdom.

Why do you work hard? What is your ultimate goal? This will reveal the motivation behind your ambition.

Philippians 2.3-4: Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

James says the consequences of wisdom from below are great: Disorder and every vile practice. So Christians should listen up, look different, act different, lead different for the sake of God's Kingdom.

Question Set 1

WISDOM FROM ABOVE

If being worldly wise is book smarts, this is street smarts.

Just as true faith is proven by how you act, James argues that true wisdom is shown not by what you say, but how you live.

How does one with wisdom from above act?

First, wise people _____ more than they _____.

James 3.17: But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere,

These qualities are proven by how someone acts, not how someone talks.

Proverbs 10.19: When words are many, sins are not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.

God gave you two ears and one mouth for a reason.

Doug Larson: “Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening when you would have preferred to talk.”

Second, Wise people seek _____.

Proverbs 16.16: Wisdom is better than gold.

Archilochus: “A fox knows many things, but a hedgehog knows one big thing.”

Be a _____ when it comes to wisdom.

THREE WAYS TO SEEK WISDOM

First, _____ the _____.

Joe Rogan: “There’s no real management book, no real document that shows you, ‘This is the optimal way to exist, and these are the pitfalls of existing other ways.’”

Proverbs 27.14 Whoever blesses his neighbor with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, will be counted as cursed.

Second, Surround yourself with _____.

Show me your friends and I’ll show you your future.

Third, Take time to _____.

What if God is trying to teach you something, to impart wisdom on you, but you’re too busy to listen?

Wisdom is the right use of knowledge. It is more valuable than gold, more precious than diamonds. It is selfless, pure, free from jealousy. It’s what the world needs today. And it’s what you should desire most.

Question Set 2