

WISDOM – A DESIRABLE TRAIT

“Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.” James 3:13 – 17 KJV

What is wisdom?

In Genesis 3:5 Satan told Eve, “For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”

In Genesis 3:6 it tells us how Eve interpreted Satan’s comment, “And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat.”

This shows that Eve defined wisdom as the knowledge of good and evil. Many people today still believe that wisdom is the knowledge of good and evil. That definition is not incorrect, just incomplete.

Wisdom is completely defined as the right use or exercise of knowledge to produce what is best, most just, most proper, and most conducive to prosperity or happiness. Wisdom is the exercise of sound judgment either in avoiding evils or attempting good.

Do you consider yourself wise?

Since this is the definition of wisdom, can we classify ourselves as wise? Do we always use our

knowledge to do what is best, most just (or fair, moral and truthful), most proper or appropriate? Do we handle most situations in a way that leads to prosperity and happiness of not only ourselves, but of others around us? Do we use good, sound judgment to avoid evil, or even the appearance of evil, to speak in kindness in difficult situations and sound, good judgment in attempting to do what is good in the sight of the Lord?”

If we are wise, what should our wisdom look like to others? If we are wise, how will our actions, our bodies prove that wisdom is working on the inside of us? Every Godly attribute required of man is not only done to please God, but also to bring us into proper fellowship with other people. The world will only know what God looks like when we begin to look like Him.

The 7 Characteristics of Wisdom

Wisdom is pure

Wisdom is pure – Wisdom’s first effect is to make you pure, holy, full of truth, free from guilt. Notice, there is no mention of obtaining knowledge first or gaining intellect, but instead a clean, pure mind. We spend a lot of time putting knowledge in a dirty mind, but wisdom is built on a foundation of purity. Wisdom is pure, chaste, genuine, sanctified, and free of “animal” likeness and devilishness.

Purification is first because it relates to the relationship between you and God. All the other characteristics of wisdom relate to mankind. It follows the order of the great commandment in Matthew 22:37-40:

“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

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God sees what's going on inside of you, and that is most important.

So how do we purify ourselves? The only way to purify ourselves is to surrender our thought process and turn it over to God. We must renew our minds. Romans 12:2 states:

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

Wisdom is peaceable

Wisdom is peaceable – free from war, undisturbed, not agitated, not easily provoked, and not trying to provoke others, forgiving. “Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.”

Wisdom is gentle

Wisdom is gentle – mild, inoffensive, meek (powerful but under control of the Holy Spirit), not harsh, not severe, having a mild temperament, even disposition, not yelling and screaming but using a non-harsh voice.

Wisdom is easy to be entreated

Wisdom is easy to be entreated – compliant, yielding to truth, not inflexible, but persuadable, not stiff, stern, obstinate and unyielding, does not take a position on a subject and hold it regardless of whether they are right or wrong, a person you can appeal to, reason with.

Wisdom is full of mercy and good fruits

Wisdom is full of mercy and good fruits – compassionate, forgiving, having good works and deeds. Mercy and good fruits are combined because you must not only feel compassion, but you must display works that portray compassion.

Wisdom is without partiality

Wisdom is without partiality – not a respecter of persons, not “clickish”, not impartial to certain

individuals, not influenced by dress, social standing or rank – everyone is equal.

Wisdom is without hypocrisy

Wisdom is without hypocrisy – sincere, no mask, real.

Conclusion

We don't always operate in wisdom. Sometimes we say things that we know will hurt someone's feelings. Sometimes we consciously make a decision to do the wrong thing.

We can begin our journey to wisdom today by allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us into freedom through obedience to God's Word. May you be blessed as you walk in the Wisdom of God.

By Co-Pastor Linda Wilson