

Proverbs – Seven Characteristics of Wisdom

WHAT IS WISDOM - Title. PURPOSE OF WISDOM. Pro. 1:1 &

Introduction: I hate making foolish mistakes. But I think that is true for most of us as we try to make wise choices. The Bible speaks of "wisdom" as it connects wisdom with virtue or moral excellence. In other words, moral excellence requires us to have "wisdom" and true wisdom will result in "virtue." Here are seven characteristics of wisdom, realizing there is the wisdom of this world and then there is what God calls wisdom.

James 3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. 17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

I) Have A Readiness to Learn

A) Is teachable

1. Some people think they all ready know everything and you just can't teach them. Ex. Rehoboam in 1 Kings 12.
 2. Wisdom starts with a disposition toward wanting wise council.
- Proverbs 1:5 A wise man will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel, 6 To understand a proverb and an enigma, The words of the wise and their riddles.

B) How teachable am I?

Proverbs 9:9 Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

1. Married couple need to ask for help.
 - a. Child rearing
 - b. Balancing time between friends, hobbies, and family.
2. There are a lot of times people ask "What is wrong with it?" But wisdom seeks "what is right with it."

II) Accepts Advice (Rebuke)

A) People tend to act defensive

1. Who are you to question me or tell me I am wrong?
2. Reminds me of a farmer planting corn. A fellow farmer came by and said "I think you are planting it to deep." The wise farmer will think about that.

B) We have to be open to rebuke.

Proverbs 9:8 Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you.

1. Rebuke can help us make better decisions.

Proverbs 17:10 Rebuke is more effective for a wise man Than a hundred blows on a fool.

2. The fool will just keep on doing the same thing.

Proverbs 15:31 The ear that hears the rebukes of life Will abide among the wise.

III) Obeys Commands

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A) A lot of people's first response is "no one can tell me what to do."

1. Creates a lot of problems in life- school, families, work, sports, etc.
2. I understand the principle stated in Acts.

Acts 5:29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men."

B) We are to receive, take hold of God's commands.

Proverbs 10:8 The wise in heart will receive commands, But a prating fool will fall.

- 1, Every commandment of God has been questioned at one time of another.
 - a. Obedience to your boss
 - b. Obedience to Government
 - c. Obedience in the home
 - d. Obedience in the church, toward elders.
2. Obedience is part of loving God.

John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments."

IV) Speaks Healing Words

A) A lot of things said in anger, frustration, can tear down.

B) The wise guards their tongue.

Proverbs 12:8 A man will be commended according to his wisdom, But he who is of a perverse heart will be despised.

Psalms 141:3 Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.

Colossians 4:6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

1. Take your time to speak.
2. More than is it truthful, does it have a good purpose.

V) Walks with the Wise

A) Birds of a feather flock together.

1. Look at those you keep company with.

Proverbs 13:20 He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed.

2. Our friends says a lot about us.

1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

B) This can be for our good if we surround ourselves with the right people.

Galatians 5:9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

1. Godly people can bring out the best in us.

VI) Fears and Departs from Evil

A) Some want to be close to sin, evil

1. They like playing with fire until they get burned.
2. You will not find good around evil.

Proverbs 14:6 A scoffer seeks wisdom and does not find it, But knowledge is easy to him who understands.

B) Stay as far away as possible.

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1 Thessalonians 5:21 Test all things; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil.

VII) Shares Knowledge

A) Wisdom is willing to help others. Those who are teachable, rebukeable, obey God's commandments, speak healing words, associate with the wise, and fears evil.

Proverbs 15:2 The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, But the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.

Proverbs 15:7 The lips of the wise disperse knowledge, But the heart of the fool does not do so.

Conclusion: James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.