

Your Family's Wisdom I the Circle of Learning, Part 3

I. The Definition of Wisdom

- Proverbs 1:1-7, 8:1-36
- Didactic Wisdom is “The actions, words, feelings, and thoughts of a person who *correctly uses* their knowledge and understanding.”
- Divine Wisdom is “The actions, words, feelings, and thoughts of a person who correctly uses their *biblical* knowledge and understanding *to please God.*”
- Delusional Wisdom is “The actions, words, feelings, and thoughts of a person who *incorrectly* uses their knowledge and understanding.”

II. The Nature of Wisdom

- **Wisdom can be good.** Proverbs 18:4, 19:8, 26:5, 12, 16, 28:11; Luke 16
 - Divine Wisdom is always good. Didactic Wisdom can be good or bad depending on what we're doing. But it will never be perfectly good unless it's coupled with Divine Wisdom.
- **Wisdom is power.** Proverbs 8, 3:19, 24:3-4
 - Knowledge, understanding, and wisdom are the most powerful power. They're the greatest strength one can possess.
- **Wisdom can save.** Proverbs 3:13, 14:6, 15:14, 10:31, 14:8, 24:14, 29:3
 - Didactically Wise people are able to achieve earthly successes, and both Didactic and Divine Wisdom are blessed by their ease in accumulating more knowledge and understanding that they can use wisely in their lives.
 - Wise people are saved from ignorance and the consequences of it because knowledge and understanding come easier to them.
 - But the most significant blessings of wisdom come only to those who are Divinely Wise, and those blessings are spiritual blessings.
- **Wisdom is valuable.** Proverbs 8, 16:16
 - Of course wisdom is valuable. Look at everything it accomplishes for the person who exercises it!

III. The Source of Wisdom

- Proverbs 2:6-11, 21:30
- God is the source of wisdom. Even if it's mere Didactic Wisdom, God is the one who created us to learn and empowers us to learn, so He is the source of all that is good and valuable.
- Though you may be able to achieve some Didactic Wisdom without *acknowledging* God in your life, you and your kids will *never* achieve any form of Divine Wisdom unless you *purposefully* and *deliberately* pursue God.
- We'll see this more as we consider how to acquire wisdom, but this point is so vital that we absolutely must be changed by it. You and your kids will *never* accidentally become Divinely Wise. It will not happen.
- Yes, it takes work, but it takes the work of God for the glory of God and rooted entirely in the person of God.
- Our families must purposefully seek out the *Source* of wisdom if we want to possess wisdom.
- We cannot look to the world for wisdom. We can't trust unregenerate people to help us be wise. We cannot be wise by listening to anyone who contradicts the Bible.

IV. The People Who Reject Wisdom

- Proverbs 1:7, 23:9
- The entire book of Proverbs is about the people who reject wisdom. They're called fools. Whether they're naive or they're scoffers, fools avoid wisdom.
- There is no way around it. Only the fool rejects Divine Wisdom. Only a fool hates learning and understanding. And only a fool despises the Didactic Wisdom that should result from learning.
- And — of course — only a fool exercises Delusional Wisdom.

V. The Consequences of Rejecting Wisdom

- Proverbs 17:16, 18:1, 24:7
- Fools can't buy wisdom. In order to get wisdom, you have to stop being a fool. You can't be both at the same time.
- Those who reject sound wisdom separate themselves. Fools don't have valuable relationships. Time and again division and strife and disunity explode into the relationships of fools.
- Fools don't have valuable influence.
- And, of course, we know that the fool has said in his heart "There is no God." And that level of foolishness ends in death, separated for all eternity from Christ.

VI. How to Acquire Wisdom

- Proverbs 3:7, 7:4; James 1:5; Proverbs 4:5-7, 10:13, 14:33, 17:24, 31:26
- **We need to believe God.**
 - We need believe God. That will cause us to desire the things of God. From there we need to learn what God requires of us. We also need to grow in our understanding of God's expectations of our lives. All of this study will reveal that we desperately need God's help living the way He commands, so we will ask Him to empower us to live wisely. And all of that is . . . in fact . . . being wise. You start being wise when you take your first steps to acquire wisdom.
 - As we pursue it, we become it. As we reach out for it, we're being it. Pursuing God is not only the first step to living wisely, it's actually living wisely.
 - Remember, The Circle of Learning is a circle on purpose. The accumulation of knowledge should naturally lead into understanding which then naturally flows into using that information correctly. But the circle doesn't stop there, it continues right back around into knowledge and understanding and wisdom all over again.
- **We need to work for wisdom.**
 - Proverbs 2:1-5, 3:1, 21, 5:1
 - Yes, wisdom is impossible for humans to live; we need the Holy Spirit to even have a chance, but the process of sanctification is a cooperation between us and God whereby He transforms us into His image as we submit to and work along with Him. It does require that we strain.
- **We need to embrace discipline.**
 - Proverbs 29:15, 1:20-33
 - Just telling your child that they're wrong and giving them a consequence will not make them wise. Nothing you will ever do will make them wise. But when your children choose to accept your reproof, when they confess their sin and repent, that is their very first step into wisdom.
 - That is them wisely submitting to God, and as they make the wise choice to participate in the reproof, then the rod and reproof give wisdom.