

21ST CENTURY WISDOM Part 2: Wisdom from Above

Wisdom is the ability to SEE through GOD'S EYES, which is difficult when the world sees almost entirely through SECULAR eyes.

Unless we put up a STERN RESISTANCE, there is a great danger we too will, in time, be TRAINED to see through THOSE eyes.

→ *How do we put up a 'stern resistance'? What are the dangers if we don't? Are there areas in which you have sensed the 'world' particularly trying to impose its view on you?*

ROMANS 12:2

- * There are many influences trying to get you to CONFORM
 - * But, as followers of Jesus, we are not called to CONFORM, but be TRANSFORMED, by the RENEWING of our minds.
 - * We need to MEDITATE on that WORD until we start to SEE what GOD SEES.
 - * Till we HABITUALLY see through a different set of LENSES:
 - i) ETERNITY, ii) HOLINESS, iii) REDEMPTION
- *What is the difference between conforming and transforming? How does the world try to 'squeeze you into its own mould'?*
- *What is renewing of the mind and how does it work?*

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WISDOM FROM ABOVE

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|---------------------|-------------------------|
| a) PURE | e) Full of MERCY |
| b) PEACE-LOVING | f) Full of GOOD FRUIT |
| c) GENTLE | g) Shows no FAVOURITISM |
| d) Willing to YIELD | h) Always SINCERE |
- *Any of those particularly jump out to you? How do they differ from or contradict how the world in general operates as it seeks to conform you?*
- *Different seed produces different harvest. Each seed inevitably produces 'fruit in kind.' What is this so important when it comes to the characteristics of wisdom, as listed in James 3?*

FOUR STATEMENTS

1. **If you're looking through IMPURE eyes, it can NEVER be wisdom** (Prov 19:9, 9:10, Job 14:4, Matt 5:8, Ezek 44:23).
 - * Who gets to DEFINE what is PURE, HOLY, MORAL, GOOD? Our unequivocal answer = GOD does.
 - * As soon as it is IMPURE or UNHOLY, it's DISQUALIFIED.
 - * If it's not drawing me closer to my HOLY God, it is self-evidently FOOLISH, not WISE.

→ *Who gets to define / draw the lines / set the boundaries for you? Why is it so important that it's the Lord?*

- * Even if it fits your definition of LOVE, if it doesn't fit God's definition of HOLY, it is NOT wise.

→ *Why is it dangerous to separate love from holiness?*

2. **If you're looking through JUDGMENTAL eyes, it can NEVER be wisdom** (Phil 1:9-10, Prov 17:24).

- * If you're looking through heavily PRE-CONDITIONED, BIASED eyes, you may well struggle to GET PAST that to see what God sees.
- * Wisdom asks God what He sees, rather than merely DEFAULTING to what your pre-conceptions see.

4 LENSES we should always try to look through first:

- a) WORD: What does the Word SAY?
- b) CHARACTER: What would Jesus DO?
- c) MISSION: What does God PURPOSE?
- d) REVELATION: What is the Holy Spirit SHOWING me?

→ *Why do we all have our own pre-suppositions / conceptions / biases? Where do they come from? How can they keep us from the wisdom of God, if we're not alert?*

→ *What are the strongest forces / influences that people struggle to 'get past' and thus find the wisdom of God elusive?*

3. **If you're looking through VENGEFUL eyes, it can NEVER be wisdom** (Rom 12:18-20, Matt 7:1, Prov 10:28, James 3:14-16).

- * ANGER, FEAR, UNFORGIVENESS rarely make good decisions.
- * If those are DRIVING you, the chances are, it will NOT be TOWARDS wisdom.

→ *"It doesn't matter how clever you think you are, if it comes from somewhere other than pure, holy, selfless love, it will just be a resounding gong or clanging cymbal (1 Cor 13:1)" Discuss!*

4. **If you're looking through UNBELIEVING eyes, it can NEVER be wisdom** (Heb 11:6, Psalm 14:1).

- * Godly wisdom will always be LOOKING to God, LEANING on God, TRUSTING in God.
- * Godly wisdom will never CONTRADICT Biblical PRINCIPLES or DENY Biblical PROMISES.
- * Godly wisdom will always lead you into FAITH & OBEDIENCE.

→ *Why will you never see wisely through unbelieving eyes?*

→ *Anything that contradicts Biblical principles or denies the promises of God is, by definition, foolishness. Do you agree?*