

Thoughts on Wisdom

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I Corinthians 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us *wisdom*, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: (KJV)

2 Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee *wise* unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. (KJV)

Colossians 2:2-3, ... and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of *wisdom* and knowledge. (KJV)

1 Corinthians 2: 16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. (KJV)

Ephesians 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of *wisdom* and revelation in the knowledge of him: (KJV)

Ephesians 5:15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, (KJV)

Fools

“There is no God”

Ignorant

Earthly

Learning but not truth (II Tim. 3:7)

Human reason

Wise

Fear God

Knowledge

Eternal

God’s Word is Truth

God’s revelation

Characteristics of wisdom

Discern between and know when to use mercy and when to use truth (Pro. 3:3)

Ability to extrapolate – foresight - perspicacity

Immersed in Scripture

Eclectic – not controlled by ideology or politics

Courage – the will to act at the right time for the right reason

Humble – teachable

Fear God – fear to do wrong, fear to not do right

Know when to break the law and when to defend the law (Matt. 12:4)

Honesty with self and others

Understand cause and effect and predict future results of current decisions

Romans 8:9-16 person

Has the “mind of Christ”- I Corinthians 2:16

Knows how to be a good follower
Submits to proper authority
Integrated – organized thought patterns
Perceive life as unified whole orchestrated by God
Understand that God has a “big story” (meta-narrative)
see danger and sin

We might think that with adulthood would come wisdom, but it is not automatic. Not trained to think or encouraged to grow-up, it is not uncommon for people to get stuck somewhere between childhood and adulthood, functionally operating as adults but secretly holding the childish belief that the world revolves around them. With adulthood should come the understanding that the world is not how we first imagined it. Specifically, it is not about us. *A chronically self-centered person cannot be wise. Their outlook is too narrow.* Selfish people are closed-looped in their thinking. Closed-looped thinking perpetuates immaturity and creates frustration, shallowness and often misplaced anger. They let little in that would conflict with their view of the world. Lacking the perspective that an outward looking person possesses, they can't perceive reality. They only see life and situations as they affect them. Thus their actions and thinking are often unreasonable—and short on wisdom.

**Adapted from Foundations magazine*

Notes

List names of some wise persons you know
List some of their distinctive characteristics

Wisdom in how to think about people -

I—You — with boundaries of honor and respect

I—It — without boundaries of honor and respect