

Wisdom & Experience

- Our first grasp of wisdom:
- Learned letters and vowels ... began to read
- Learned numbers and symbols ... + - * /
became more and more proficient in Math
- Riding a bike
- Typing on a keyboard
- Driving a car
- 1st we learn ... then we apply ... then we gain experience... then we have wisdom.
- The more experience ... The more wisdom

Wisdom and Experience

- Every habit and skill we possess is the result of experience that has created wisdom.
- The more experience and wisdom, the greater the ability to know how to do things well.
- This is a great blessing when a difficult problem is made easy.
- Yet God wants us to be aware that such wisdom can also be a great curse.
- A wide chasm between emptiness of worldly wisdom and wealth of spiritual wisdom.

Curse of Worldly Our Wisdom

- *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." 20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. 1C 1:18-22*

A Grave Need to Assess Wisdom

- Just because we are really good at something doesn't mean we are truly wise...
- *Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their own craftiness;" 20 and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." 1Cor 3:18-21*

Un-learning & Re-learning

- “*You can’t teach an old dog new tricks*” is a proverb for lazy people who don’t want to unlearn and relearn.
- Yet if we learned to respond to things wrongly in the world, we have to learn to respond differently.
- There is nothing more difficult but necessary
- *For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil. Rom 16:19*

Un-learning and Re-learning

- *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2Cor 5:17-18*
- *since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, Col 3:9-11*
- *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Rom 12:2*

The Greatest Obstacle

- Through all my years, working with myself and others, I have found one absolute truth.
- The most difficult step in exchanging folly for wisdom is recognizing folly!
- We can't see all our faults. If we are open to listening to see ourselves more clearly, we will be wise indeed!
- If we respond to criticism with disbelief or anger, we will never be able to see ourselves clearly enough to grow as we should.

The Greatest Obstacle

- *Wisdom has built her house, She has hewn out her seven pillars; ... 3 She has sent out her maidens, She cries out from the highest places of the city, 4 “Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!” ... 6 Forsake foolishness and live, And go in the way of understanding. 7 **He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself, And he who rebukes a wicked man only harms himself. 8 Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you. 9 Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. Pr. 9:1-9***

We all Claim it: Can We Prove it?

- The very thing described in Proverbs is the key James uses to test ourselves.
- *Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.*
Jas. 3:13-14
- Not just conformed to old ways...
- Our works manifest “*meekness of wisdom*”

“Meekness of Wisdom”

- *“prautes... Gentleness, mildness, meekness...”*
(Thayer p 535; 4240)
- *“prautes... “mild and gentle friendliness,” is the opp. of roughness... of bad temper, or sudden anger... and brusqueness...”* (Kittel, Vol 6 p 645-646)
- *“In English, “meekness” suggests weakness to a greater or less extent, whereas “prautes” does nothing of the kind. The meekness manifested by the Lord and commended to the believer is the fruit of power.”* (Vines)

“*Meekness of Wisdom*”

- In the eyes of the world the “meek” are weak, only acting meekly because they don’t have the strength to do anything else.
- Children often call those who are gentle and mild a “*sissy*”, or a “*chicken*” because that’s how they have been raised to see it.
- Only wimps and cowards act with gentleness and mildness when mistreated.
- This is the pride of life masquerading as wisdom. If we can’t change this we are fools

“Meekness of Wisdom”

- This is the terrible paradox for many Christians. It is not that we don't know the meaning of the term. It is that we feel demeaned and lessened when we do not stand up to our rights as we did before we became a Christian.
- But the truly wise show by their deeds that they have overcome this pride and learned to submit to the advice and reproofs of others when they are right.

Things that Disqualify

- If we have the opposite of meekness lurking in our hearts and foiling our attempts to grow and change we need to see it for what it is.
- *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.*
James 3:14-16

The Wisdom from Above

- *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. 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. James 3:17-18*