

## Sanity: Finding Wisdom in a Confused World

### Proverbs 1:1-7 Wisdom begins at the feet of Jesus

#### Memory Verse: Proverbs 1:7

*The fear of the Lord in the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

**Review:** (Read verses with each sermon point)

What is wisdom? Kenneth stated in the sermon that “Wisdom is...”

- Wisdom is living skillfully (v.2)
- Wisdom is behaving ethically (v.3)
- Wisdom is discerning accurately (v.4)
- Wisdom is learning humbly (vv.5-6)

How do I get wisdom? (v.7)

- Submit to the Lord (v.7 – “The fear of the Lord”)
- Stay with the Lord (v.7 – “is the beginning of knowledge”)

Remember: Wisdom is not found in a program or process, but in a person.

Ask:

Were there any particular points that really spoke to you? (Let class discuss for a couple minutes, share something yourself.)

#### Relating the Truths to Our Hearts:

Scripture tells us in numerous places that “wisdom” comes from two places, the world and the Lord. Let’s spend some time comparing the two to help us see further into our own hearts and minds regarding the wisdom we truly walk by every day.

Ask:

What are some ways that worldly wisdom would tell us that we are “living skillfully”?

- Let the class discuss. It is easy to spot the obviously sinful ways (deceit, stealing, selfishness...) but focus the discussion on ways that are not necessarily seen as evil; such as financial management, saving for college/retirement, career, your children’s education/activities/sports, and many others.

Let’s be honest, can it be difficult to reject the wisdom of the world and walk in the ways of the Lord?

- YES! Give an example (best to use one mentioned above) where the wisdom of the world would be rejected and why that would be difficult.

Why can this be so difficult for us?

- Our natural minds are in line with the ways of the world (flesh) and not with the ways of the Spirit. (Romans 8:7-8)
- When we are saved, our minds are not completely transformed at once, this takes time and growth. (Romans 12:2)

- The difficulty comes when we have walked in the ways of the world for a long time, even seen worldly success, and are not open to the fact that this walk was not of the Lord.
- Rejecting ways we have walked in for a long time goes against our nature.

What does this difficult struggle tell us about our own hearts and minds?

- Our nature fears what the world fears and does not fear the Lord. (Matt. 10:28, Heb 13:6)  
Recognizing and accepting this in our own hearts takes “walking humbly.”
- It’s difficult to admit that our hearts are deceived.

In our current situation with COVID, the economy, and all the related unrest/uncertainty, think about it simply and answer honestly/humbly, what have you feared the most?

- Give your answer and let the class discuss theirs. Would the world fear the same things?
- If our fears are the same as the worlds, this should point to a lack of fear of the Lord.

Let’s take it a step further. Is it possible to believe we are walking in the wisdom of the Lord and in reality be walking in the wisdom of the world? (i.e. deceived)

- Absolutely!
- “Discerning accurately” comes directly into play here.
- Only those “who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice” will grow to discern accurately. (Heb 5:14)

Since this is possible, how can I tell (discern) which wisdom I am walking in?

- Look at the fruit of our lives (Matt 7:15-19, Gal 5:22-24)
  - Contrast fruit of the Spirit and fruit of darkness.
  - Outward fruit of darkness is obvious sin, so focus on inward fruit.
  - Examples of internal fruit of darkness: anxiety, depression, insecurity, shame, guilt, etc.
- The Holy Spirit allows us to feel His conviction in many ways. We must be sensitive to His conviction.

When I see areas in my life where I am not walking in the wisdom of the Lord, what should I do?

- I must “walk humbly” to be able to turn from the wisdom of the world. Humility is required to acknowledge that I am wrong and have been walking against the leadership of the Spirit.
- Once we feel the conviction of the Spirit in an area, we must:
  - Acknowledge the beliefs and desires that are sinful.
  - Confess the sin to the Lord.
  - Intentionally turn away from these beliefs and desires, even if it is costly.
  - Seek to walk in obedience to the Spirit.

How can I gain and/or grow in the wisdom of the Lord in different areas of my life?

- Seek the wisdom of the Spirit in **prayer** (James 1:5-7)
- Seek the wisdom of the Lord in **Scripture** (2 Tim 3:16-17)
- Seek fellowship with the Spirit by **walking** “in step” with Him daily (Gal 5:25)

Impact Point: Humbly ASK Jesus for wisdom, LOOK in His Book, and go LIVE it out.