



# LIVING WISELY IN AN AGE OF FOLLY



## THE AGE OF FOLLY

- Folly ignores, deconstructs or denies reality or constructs an alternative reality to alleviate guilt, pursue natural cravings or actions that result in calamity, empty fulfilment, despair and ultimately no final accountability.

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- Romans 1:21-23a: For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man . . .

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- Prevailing Social Theory:

The interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage

“Intersectionality” as defined by Oxford English Dictionary

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2 Results of it's wide-ranging application:

- 1. Results in identity politics and social identities of individuals or groups
- 2. Results in a culture of victimization; blame – shame - penance

# JOSEPH: A CONTRAST OF WISDOM

- In the Biblical account of the life of Joseph, which is extensive, God reveals how true wisdom stands in contrast to the world's wisdom.
- Joseph is portrayed as a wise man who understands the nature of both natural and supernatural realms and lives in correspondence to reality. His wisdom is acknowledged by others as well:

So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has informed you of all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you are.” Gen. 41:39


# JOSEPH: A CONTRAST IN WISDOM

- Experienced the death of his mother as a teenager
- Part of a dysfunctional family
- Emotionally abused and bullied by his brothers
- Physically abused and threatened with murder
- Sold into slavery in a foreign country
- The object of sexual harassment
- Falsely accused of rape and imprisoned without justice
- Suffered bigotry and ethnic slander

# JOSEPH: A CONTRAST IN WISDOM

- Impacts his life choices and actions. 39:8
- Instead of shame he exercises forgiveness. 50:19
- Frames his life story in the reality of God's providence. 50:20
- Places his story inside the overarching story of God's work in history



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- The occurrences of the heathen world, the affairs of courts, their crimes, cabals, intrigues, are all under the divine control. A country in which the wisdom of the world seems to have emancipated itself from all regard to the government of a divine providence, is just the one whose administration shows the most failure, and most frequently experiences an ironical disappointment of its plans.

John Peter Lange in his commentary on Genesis, 1872