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# LIVING WISELY IN AN AGE OF FOLLY



# SOURCES OF WISDOM

## Religious Writings

- Bible
- Koran
- Vedas
- Confucianism

## Cultural & Experiential Traditions

- Aesop's Fables
- Proverbial Maxims
- Life Lessons

# CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES & WISDOM

- Proverbs 1:2-7 ; To know wisdom and instruction, to discern the sayings of understanding, to receive instruction in wise behavior, righteousness, justice and equity; to give prudence to the naïve, to the youth knowledge and discretion, a wise man will hear and increase in learning, and a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel, to understand a proverb and a figure, the words of the wise and their riddles. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.
- Proverbs 2:5,6; Then you will discern the fear of the LORD and discover the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom, from His mouth comes knowledge and understanding.
- Proverbs 9:10; The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

# DEFINING WISDOM

- Biblical wisdom is not merely about decision making. Wisdom and its companion word “understanding/insight” carry the thought of knowledge in the realm of the unknown or unseen as well as that which is known or seen. It means insights into the supernatural and the natural. Both realms I may summarize as “reality”. Biblical reality is a worldview that sees both the natural and supernatural world and the relationship between the two in order to understand and then live in the world as it actually is.
- “Every religion and every secular philosophy claims to represent reality in a true and accurate way. Indeed, every person has a view like this of some sort. Everyone has in his or her mind a story about the way the world actually is, even if they haven’t thought about it much or worked out all the details.”

Gregory Koukl, “The Story of Reality”, p. 23

# DEFINING WISDOM

- Our working definition: Wisdom is living life in correspondence to reality and in distinction to alternative realities which are identified as folly.
- Folly ignores reality or constructs an alternative reality to alleviate guilt, pursue natural cravings or actions that result in calamity, empty fulfilment, despair and ultimately a final accountability.

# DEFINING WISDOM

- Proverbs 2:22; How long, O naive ones will you love being simple-minded? And scoffers delight themselves in scoffing and fools hate knowledge.
- I Corinthians 1:20-21; Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God . . . .
- James 3:15-17; This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

# DEFINING WISDOM

- Wisdom: Living life in correspondence to reality
  - Impacts how we make ethical choices
  - Impacts how we prioritize our life (values)
  - Impacts how we relate to others
  - Impacts how we function in society
- A wise person describes an individual who possesses moral insight and skill in deciding practical issues of conduct derived from their personal knowledge of God, and His design for life in the real world.