



LIVING WISELY IN AN AGE OF FOLLY



DEFINING WISDOM

- Our working definition: Wisdom is living life in correspondence to reality and in distinction to alternative realities which are identified as folly. 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.
- 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.

THE SOURCE OF WISDOM

- The “reality” of wisdom must include the God who is the source of wisdom
- 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 come knowledge and understanding
- Proverbs 9:10: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding

THE SOURCE OF WISDOM

- Romans 16:25-27: Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to the nations, leading to the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen

THE SOURCE OF WISDOM

- Psalm 14:1-3: The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds. There is no one who does good. The LORD has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.

THE GOD WHO IS REAL

- He is eternal
- He makes Himself known
- He is unique
- He is distinct
- He defines good and evil
- He acts in history
- He directs history to a purposeful end

MORAL THERAPEUTIC DEISM

-belief in a particular kind of God: one who exists, created the world, and defines our general moral order, but not one who is particularly personally involved in one's affairs – especially affairs in which one would prefer not to have God involved. Most of the time, the God of this faith keeps a safe distance. He is often described as “watching over everything from above” and “the creator of everything and . . . just up there now controlling everything.”

Christian Smith & Melinda Lundquist Denton, “Soul Searching: The Religious & Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers”; Oxford University Press 2005

MORAL THERAPEUTIC DEISM

- 1. A God exists who created and orders the world and watches over human life on earth.
- 2. God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.
- 3. The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.
- 4. God does not need to be particularly involved in one's life except when God is needed to resolve a problem.
- 5. Good people go to heaven when they die.

MORAL THERAPEUTIC DEISM

- Smith. . . argues that this generation actually has difficulty imagining any objective reality beyond the self. As he explained, “Most have great difficulty grasping the idea that a reality that is objective to their own awareness or construction of it may exist that could have a significant bearing on their lives.” To all this he adds that these emerging adults are actually soft ontological antirealists, epistemological skeptics, and perspectivalists, ‘although few have any conscious idea what those terms mean.’
 - Albert Mohler, “The Gathering Storm” quoting from Christian Smith, “Souls in Transition: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of Emerging Adults,” 2009

DISTINCTIVE, REDEMPTIVE THEISM

- Proverbs 9:10: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
- He is the Holy One: distinct and objective
- He is the LORD who is involved in history: providence



- The biblical view of providence is dramatically specific; it unqualifiedly affirms particular divine providence, that is, God works out his purposes not merely in life's generalities but in the details and minutiae of life as well. The Bible relates to divine providence not only general and universal structures but also personal experiences; nothing falls outside God's will and concern. Not just the mass of humanity but each individual is significant to God, and so are life's particularities. Since all things fall within God's purview, even seemingly chance events should be considered divine providences.

- Carl F.H. Henry, "God & Revelation; The God Who Stands & Stays"

DISTINCTIVE, REDEMPTIVE THEISM

- Wisdom that is true, by necessity, must correspond to the God who is real. 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.