

Living Well: Wisdom, Integrity and Decision Making

Wisdom

We all have a desire to be Wise.

Earthly wisdom verse Godly Wisdom

- Earthly wisdom appeals to the senses and emotions.
 - Wisdom of God reflects him.
- Earthly wisdom says always follow your heart
 - Godly wisdom tells us in Jeremiah 17:9 **The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?**
- Earthly wisdom says seeing is believing
 - Godly wisdom tells us in John 20:29 ***Blessed are this who have not seen yet believe***
- Earthly wisdom says love your family and friends,
 - Godly wisdom tells us in Matthew 5:43-47 ***to also love your enemies and bless them.***
- Earthly wisdom says there are many ways to God
 - Godly Wisdom in Acts 4:12 tells us ***there is only one way to God, Jesus Christ.***

8 Characteristics of Godly Wisdom from James 3.

1. **Humble** - Wise people don't constantly brag, boast, or display a prideful attitude.
2. **Good deeds** - Wise people live an upright and moral life.
3. **Gentle** - Wise people treat others with care and respect.
4. **Considerate** - Wise people put needs of others ahead of themselves when possible.
5. **Peace Loving** - Wise people don't foster division, instead the work to end strife and turmoil

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6. **Merciful** - Wise people demonstrate compassion, forgiveness, and kindness to others.
7. **Sincere** - Wise people are genuine, real and honest; not deceitful, hypercritical or false.
8. **Impartial** - Wise people are fair and just. They do not show partiality to others for their own benefit.

Integrity

- A. A person of integrity is: upright, straight, level, honest, sincere..
- B. A person of integrity has a regard for what is Honorable not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men. 2 Cor. 8:21

Integrity is rooted

1. in a conscious Awareness of God. Psalm 139
2. Understanding that what is in my Heart will be lived out. Luke 6:45
3. Integrity is a goal of scripture education. 1 Timothy 1:3-7

What does the bible say about integrity?

1. Integrity means treating people fairly and honestly - Lev. 19:35-36; Duet. 25:15; Prov. 16:11-13
2. Integrity is giving your word and keeping it. - Exodus 8:28-32
3. Integrity will protect you. Psalm 25... David prays that integrity and uprightness will protect him. Psalm 25:21; Prov. 2:7-8; 10:9; 11:3
4. Integrity is more valuable than riches. Prov. 28:6
5. The Lord will test and Judge our integrity. 1 Chron. 29:17; Psalm 7:8
6. The Lord hates lies and lack of integrity. Zech. 8:16-17
7. It may be difficult to maintain your integrity. Job 2:3; 2:9; Prov. 29:10
8. Your character can be corrupted by bad company. 1 Cor. 15:33
9. Integrity will be rewarded. 1 Kins 9:4-5; Nehem. 7:2; Psalm 41:11-12
10. Your integrity should set an example. Titus 2:7

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Benefits of Integrity

1. God looks for people of integrity. Psalm 15, 2 Chron. 16:9
2. No skeletons in the closet to worry about.
3. Freedom
4. A good name" (Prov. 22:1) and a Godly legacy (Prov. 20:7)

What does a person of integrity look like, is there a banner to identify them?

1. They value other peoples time
2. They give credit where it is due
3. They are authentic
4. They are always honest.
5. They never take advantage of others
6. They give people the benefit of the doubt
7. They do not argue over disagreements
8. They know when something is bothering someone
9. They believe others
10. They apologize first
11. They are humble
12. They do good whenever possible
13. They are always kind to those who need it

Decision Making

1. Direction from God - As Christians our overall direction in life is determined by our commitment to God.
 - That which God wants
 - What we would want if we had all the facts.
2. What is it we know to be the will of God?
 - Salvation of all men - John 6:38-40, 2 Peter 3:9

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- Maturity of Believers - Hebrews 5:11 - 6:3
- Our obedience in every matter - John 4:34-38
- Unity of believers - John 17:20-23
- Moral Purity - 1 Thess. 4:3-8
- Thankfulness - 1 Thess. 5:16-18

God guides his people for His Name's Sake. Psalms 23:1-4

How do we start in this decision making and what does the bible tell us?

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Does God already have a clear teaching about this
3. Define the issue, wise decisions are informed decisions.
4. Trust the Lord with your with your decision .
5. Be willing to admit mistakes and adjust accordingly.
6. Give praises to God for your success

There are barriers to finding God's will in your decision making.

- Seeking God's will over seeking God.
- Sin in our lives, have you sought forgiveness?
- Personal blind spots
- Trying to force God into giving a miraculous sign.
- Does God have a specific will? yes, but it God's duty to reveal it, Rom. 1:10; 15:32; 1 Cor. 4:19; 16:7; James 4:13-15

Pursue God, and the knowledge of his will will follow. We cannot expect to follow his will if we do not know him.