



Way of the Eagle

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DISCERNMENT

Let no person deceive himself. If anyone among you supposes that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool [let him discard his worldly discernment and recognize himself as dull, stupid, and foolish, without true learning and scholarship], that he may become [really] wise. For this world's wisdom is foolishness (absurdity and stupidity) with God, for it is written, He lays hold of the wise in their [own] craftiness". I Corinthians 3:18-19

What is discernment?

Discernment is simply following God's truth and wisdom for any situation of life. It is a "spiritual knowing" about how to handle things.

In this passage above, Paul talks about people that must be aware of the world's foolishness and their own ignorance, and therefore must distrust the world and their own understanding, and not lean on it.

To have a high opinion of our own wisdom is but to flatter ourselves and self-flattery is the very next step to self-deceit. The way to true wisdom is to sink our own opinion to a lower level, and be willing to be taught of God. One must become a fool who would be truly and thoroughly wise. The person who realizes the foolishness of the world and their own understanding, and decides to follow the instructions of God, is on the way to true and everlasting wisdom.

There are many teachers and preachers who deceive themselves and others, thinking they have discernment. Such are proud people, conceited of their own wisdom and understanding, that they will undertake to correct even divine wisdom itself, and prefer their own shallow reasoning to the revelations of the infallible truth and wisdom of God's Word.

These organizations and groups are common around the world as seen through the various man-made denominations that have developed their own religions. There is a falling away from the doctrine of Christ and from the Holy Spirit, apostolic power, and wisdom, to a cold formality and to teaching of the "traditions" and "doctrines of men" (Colossians 2:8, 22). "having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!" 2 Timothy 3:5

1 Corinthians 3:19 says: "For this world's wisdom is foolishness (absurdity and stupidity) with God, for it is written, "He lays hold of the wise in their [own] craftiness"."

We can't compare human wisdom to God's wisdom. There is no common measure by which to compare finite and infinite. And much more is the wisdom of man's foolishness with God when set in competition with His. God can easily confuse and confound the wisdom of man! "He catches the wise in their own craftiness" (Job 5:13), He catches them in their own nets, and entangles them in their own snares: He turns their most detailed, plausible, and promising schemes against themselves, and ruins them by their own plans.

We will not develop discernment until we give up worldly and humanly and religious reasoning.

If you are trying to figure out everything in life, you must realize that it is just a habit, a bad habit; one that you will have to break. Your mind may be addicted to excessive reasoning. There's certainly nothing wrong with using our minds . . . God has blessed us with strong minds to accomplish many great things. But as soon as you begin to feel frustrated and confused, as soon as you start to lose your sense of inner peace, you need to say to yourself, "Uh-oh, I've gone too far." You must give up your efforts and entrust yourself totally to the Lord, leaving your situation entirely in His hands.

The thoughts of the wisest men in the world have a great mixture of pride, of weakness and folly, in them; and before God their wisest and best thoughts are only vanity. We need to learn modesty, and respect the wisdom of God, and be thankful for His revelations, and be willing to be taught by God, and not be led away by the world and human wisdom and skill, but learn from the simplicity of Christ. The person who would be wise indeed must learn of God, and not set their wisdom up in competition with God's. True wisdom belongs to God and may be given by Him alone. It cannot be received by those who put confidence in worldly wisdom which is based upon human cleverness and insight without God's revelation and which will come to nothing.

THE EMPTINESS OF WORLDLY WISDOM/DISCERNMENT

Worldly wisdom is foolishness to God [1 Corinthians 3:19-20](#), [Romans 1:21-23](#).

God cannot be known by worldly wisdom [1 Cor. 1:21](#), [Romans 11:33-34](#), [1 Cor. 1:17](#), [1 Cor. 2:4-5,11-13](#).

Worldly wisdom builds pride and false hope [Isaiah 47:10](#), [Proverbs 3:7](#), [Pr 26:12](#), [Proverbs 28:11](#).

Paul uses irony to condemn the “wisdom” in which the Corinthians take pride [1 Cor. 4:10](#), [2 Cor. 11:18-19](#).

Worldly wisdom will be confounded [Proverbs 21:30](#), [Isaiah 19:11](#), [Isaiah 44:25](#), [Jeremiah 51:57](#).

TRUE WISDOM/DISCERNMENT COMES FROM GOD

It is given by God alone [James 3:17](#).

It is received through God’s Word [Psalm 19:7](#), [Psalm 119:99-100](#).

It is received through submission to God [Proverbs 15:33](#), [Isaiah 33:6](#).

It is imparted by God’s Spirit [Ephesians 1:17](#), [Exodus 31:3](#).

It is given in response to prayer [James 1:5](#), [Colossians 1:9](#).

THE REVELATION OF DIVINE WISDOM/DISCERNMENT

It is revealed in Jesus Christ [1 Corinthians 1:23-24](#)

God’s wisdom, is hidden from those who rely on human wisdom, is the message of Christ crucified. [1 Cor. 1:30](#).

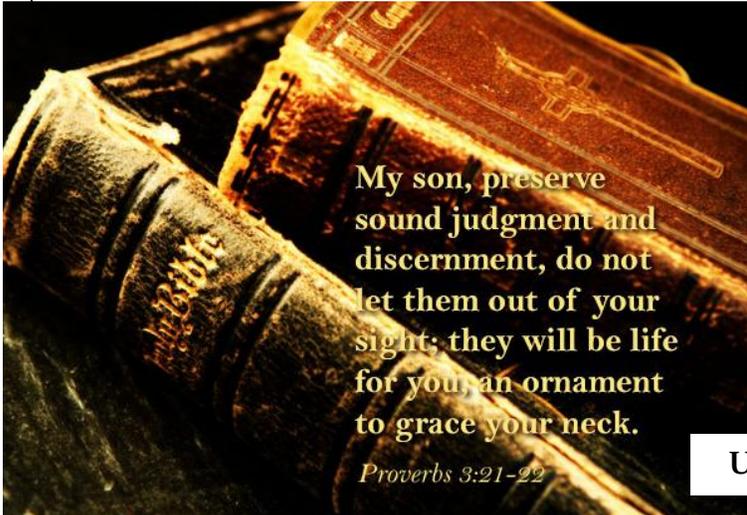
It is rejected by the worldly-wise [1 Corinthians 2:14](#), [1 Corinthians 1:18,22-23](#).

It is revealed to the unlearned [Matthew 11:25](#), [Luke 10:21](#), [1 Corinthians 3:18](#).

God’s wisdom may be received only by those willing to give up all reliance on their own human insight and understanding [1 Corinthians 1:26-27](#).

It is revealed through the church [Ephesians 3:10](#).

God-given wisdom is superior to worldly wisdom [Luke 21:15](#), [Daniel 5:7](#), [Acts 6:10](#).



My son, preserve
sound judgment and
discernment, do not
let them out of your
sight; they will be life
for you, an ornament
to grace your neck.

Proverbs 3:21-22

In addition to all this written advice from God, we also have spiritual guidance and discernment or “knowing” from the Holy Spirit, which is one of His gifts to Christians... “to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues” [1 Corinthians 12:10](#). We should go to the Holy Spirit for discernment about people and situations when we are unsure. Spiritual discernment is vital in prayer, intercession, when doing spiritual warfare and especially when confronted with false prophets, false leaders and false Christians, who look & sound “godly”, but lead many astray ([2 Timothy 3:5](#)).

Utilize discernment to have God guide your life!