

The Wisdom of God vs. the Wisdom of the World

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God commands us to know wisdom and instruction (Proverbs 1:1, see also 1:1-7, 8:1-36). But He also tells us there is a *human wisdom...of this age* (1 Corinthians 2:6-16). The wisdom of this age is wisdom in that it is often a well-thought-out conclusion about how to live life.

But worldly wisdom has serious problems:

(1) It is wisdom devoid of the illumination of the written Word of God by the Spirit of God. It's like the scientist in the Middle Ages who concluded the world was flat and life spontaneously generated itself from nonliving matter. These were not simpleminded people but people uninformed of the truth.

(2) Another major problem with worldly wisdom is that it is Satan/demon-inspired. And demon-inspired wisdom increases in the later days (1 Timothy 4:1).

(3) Also, the worldly-wise have not confessed their sin as sin. And sin causes foolishness (Romans 1:22, see vv. 18-32). The real tragedy, however, is that Christians often follow the world or mix the world's wisdom with God's (1 Corinthians 3:1-3).

This brochure is designed to help discern the difference.

1. *Worldly wisdom* says everything evolved naturally.

Godly wisdom says everything was created supernaturally (Genesis 1:1).

2. *Worldly wisdom* says sin (malevolence) comes from ignorance.

Godly wisdom says sin comes from a desire to disobey God (Genesis 3:6, James 1:14).

3. *Worldly wisdom* says morality is in one's actions (deeds).

Godly wisdom says morality is in one's intentions (Genesis 6:5).

4. *Worldly wisdom* says rightness comes from what most people think is right.

Godly wisdom says rightness comes from faith in God and therefore His Word (Genesis 15:6).

5. *Worldly wisdom* says the biggest sin (i.e., all evil) is to wrong people.

Godly wisdom says the biggest sin is idolatry (i.e., to worship the wrong God) (Exodus 20:3-6, Deuteronomy 6:5).

6. *Worldly wisdom* says love for someone is always good.

Godly wisdom says love for someone is not always good (1 Kings 11:1-4).

7. *Worldly wisdom* says there is significance in outward religious forms.

Godly wisdom says there is no positive significance in any mechanical act (Isaiah 1:11-15).

8. *Worldly wisdom* says intimacy makes a relationship good.

Godly wisdom says intimacy can make a relationship bad (1 Kings 16:29-33).

9. *Worldly wisdom* says pride is a virtue.

Godly wisdom says pride is a sin (Isaiah 66:1-2).

10. *Worldly wisdom* says feelings are more important than knowledge.
Godly wisdom says knowledge is more important than feelings (Hosea 4:6, Romans 10:2).
11. *Worldly wisdom* says divorce is a solution.
Godly wisdom says divorce is a problem (Malachi 2:16).
12. *Worldly wisdom* says it's okay not to be perfect.
Godly wisdom says it's not okay not to be perfect (Matthew 5:48).
13. *Worldly wisdom* says to love your friends.
Godly wisdom says to love your enemies (Matthew 5:43-47).
14. *Worldly wisdom* says the profit motive (laying up treasure) is bad in spiritual matters.
Godly wisdom says the profit motive is good in spiritual matters (Matthew 6:19-21).
15. *Worldly wisdom* says it's possible to seek wealth and serve God.
Godly wisdom says it's impossible to seek wealth and serve God (Matthew 6:24).
16. *Worldly wisdom* says your job supplies your needs.
Godly wisdom says God supplies your needs (Matthew 6:25-26).
17. *Worldly wisdom* says to change others to your way of thinking.
Godly wisdom says to change yourself to God's way of thinking (Matthew 7:1-5).
18. *Worldly wisdom* says if there are many who believe it, it's probably true.
Godly wisdom says if there are many who believe it, it's probably false (Matthew 7:13-14).
19. *Worldly wisdom* says don't be afraid of God.
Godly wisdom says to fear God (Matthew 10:28)
20. *Worldly wisdom* says true religious leaders bring peace.
Godly wisdom says true religious leaders cause conflict (Matthew 10:34-37).
21. *Worldly wisdom* says to save yourself.
Godly wisdom says lose yourself (Matthew 16:25).
22. *Worldly wisdom* says we are all equally valuable.
Godly wisdom says few are chosen (Matthew 22:14).
23. *Worldly wisdom* says it's good to be prosperous and loved.
Godly wisdom says it's good to be poor and hated (Luke 6:20-26).
24. *Worldly wisdom* says I give to you because it does you good.
Godly wisdom says I give to you because it does me good (Luke 6:38).
25. *Worldly wisdom* says you can keep some things a secret.
Godly wisdom says every secret will be revealed (Luke 12:2-3).
26. *Worldly wisdom* says faith is a feeling.
Godly wisdom says faith is a decision (John 1:12).
27. *Worldly wisdom* says love is a feeling.
Godly wisdom says love is a decision (John 13:34).
28. *Worldly wisdom* says seeing is believing.
Godly wisdom says believing is seeing (John 20:25).
29. *Worldly wisdom* says there are many ways to God.
Godly wisdom says there is only one way to God (Acts 4:12).

30. *Worldly wisdom* says people are basically good.
Godly wisdom says people are basically bad (Romans 3:10-18).
31. *Worldly wisdom* says nature is good.
Godly wisdom says nature is perverted (Romans 8:20-22).
32. *Worldly wisdom* says unity is when we tolerate each other's viewpoint.
Godly wisdom says unity is when we all agree (1 Corinthians 1:10).
33. *Worldly wisdom* says our sex drive is basically good.
Godly wisdom says our sex drive is basically perverted (1 Corinthians 7:1-5).
34. *Worldly wisdom* says love accepts a person the way he is.
Godly wisdom says love does not accept a person the way he is (1 Corinthians 13:6).
35. *Worldly wisdom* says don't let people take advantage of you.
Godly wisdom says let people take advantage of you (1 Corinthians 13:7).
36. *Worldly wisdom* says people come and go. Institutions live on.
Godly wisdom says institutions come and go, but people live on (1 Corinthians 15:19).
37. *Worldly wisdom* says strength is the key to success.
Godly wisdom says weakness is the key to success (2 Corinthians 12:9-10).
38. *Worldly wisdom* says we are to be united in practice but not in purpose.
Godly wisdom says we are to be united in purpose but not in practice (Ephesians 4:13).
39. *Worldly wisdom* says submission is a two-way street.
Godly wisdom says submission is a one-way street (Ephesians 5:20:9).
40. *Worldly wisdom* says your problem is you don't like yourself enough.
Godly wisdom says your problem is you like yourself too much (Ephesians 5:29).
41. *Worldly wisdom* says to take care of yourself.
Godly wisdom says to regard others above yourself (Philippians 2:3-4).
42. *Worldly wisdom* says to get revenge.
Godly wisdom says to forgive (Colossians 3:13).
43. *Worldly wisdom* says men and women are equally qualified for leadership.
Godly wisdom says women should not lead men (1 Timothy 2:12-14).
44. *Worldly wisdom* says a person has to live.
Godly wisdom says a person has to die (Hebrews 9:27).
45. *Worldly wisdom* says love means never having to say you are sorry.
Godly wisdom says love means saying you are sorry (James 5:16).
46. *Worldly wisdom* says to lead is to be followed.
Godly wisdom says to lead is to give (1 Peter 5:1-3).
47. *Worldly wisdom* says to defend your mistakes.
Godly wisdom says to confess your sin (1 John 1:8-10).
48. *Worldly wisdom* says institutional union encourages unity.
Godly wisdom says instituted union encourages disunity (3 John 5-11).

49. *Worldly wisdom* says tolerance is a virtue.

Godly wisdom says tolerance leads to sin (Revelation 2:20).

50. *Worldly wisdom* says the world will get better.

Godly wisdom says the world will get worse (Revelation 6:18).