

WISDOM#1
WISDOM'S CRY

Ephesians 5 ¹⁵ **Be very careful, then, how you live**—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. NIV

Do you find that the same advice we offer others in their obvious bad decision making, is often overruled in our own circumstances?

George Bernard Shaw:

We are made wise not by the recollection of our past, but by the responsibility for our future.

Many times I am asked what is the right thing or the wrong thing for me to do? Many questionable things are not spelled out in scripture. Often people assume if the Bible is not clear on it then God must place his approval on it.

The question of whether if something is Moral or immoral
Ethical or unethical
Right or wrong
could better be replaced with the question, **“is it the wise thing to do?”**

The question isn't, “What can I get by with or is it the right thing for me to do?”

The question is,

“based upon your life's past experience and history is it the wise thing to do?”

“In light of your future hopes and dreams is it the wise thing to do?”

What is the wise thing about alcohol?

Spending or borrowing

Smoking?

Sex

Tattoos

Gambling

Does it make your life easier or more complicated?

What is the wise thing for me to do?

There are three responses occur when wisdom is not received:

1. "You are Overacting"

2. "I don't care"

3. "Exactly what I would expect from you. You are narrow minded and want to impose your morals on me."

Solomon in the book of Proverbs writes about the response to wisdom. He offers three chairs that we may find ourselves sitting in.

Proverbs 1 ²² "How long will you **simple** ones love your simple ways? How long will **mockers** delight in mockery and **fools** hate knowledge? NIV

1. The Simple

This the person who lacks understanding or has lack of life experience.

Proverbs 7 ⁶ At the window of my house I looked out through the lattice. ⁷ I saw among the simple, I noticed among the young men, a youth who lacked judgment. NIV

Judgment is "understanding" in the KJV

Why do beer companies, Hollywood porn producers, Recording studios of Rock and Rap music, and Credit Card companies target youth and college students?

Because **they know they lack experience! They have never been 35 years old looking back with regret!** Lie when the kids ask, “Mom or Dad did you do this when you were my age?”

The only way Solomon could describe the “simple” was in a young man about to have a sexual encounter. He was about to be seduced by a married woman.

¹⁰ Then out came a woman to meet him, dressed like a prostitute and with crafty intent.

¹⁵ So I came out to meet you; I looked for you and have found you! ¹⁸ ... let’s enjoy ourselves with love!

²¹ With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk.

²² All at once he followed her **like an ox going to the slaughter**, like a deer stepping into a noose ²³till an arrow pierces his liver, **like a bird darting into a snare, little knowing it will cost him his life.**

If you don’t listen it can cost you your life.

Don’t feel guilty for lack of experience. Wisdom will listen, the simple will be naïve.

While the simple or naïve will respond with, “you are overacting!” There is another response....the response of ...

2. The Fool

“I don’t want to hear it ... I don’t care”

Solomon tells us a great deal about the characteristics of a fool.

There is no information for a fool. He knows but doesn't care.

"You know you are too busy for your kids!"- Don't care.

"You know if you divorce what it will do to your kids?" Don't care.

"You know if you continue to spend and be in debt like you are you will loose it all"... Don't care

Fools can only be dealt with by force.

Proverbs 26³ A whip for the horse, a halter for the donkey, and a rod for the backs of fools! NIV

A fool cannot hide his actions

Proverbs 13:16.... but a fool **exposes his folly**. NIV

Proverbs 14:16 A wise man fears the Lord and shuns evil, but a fool is **hotheaded and reckless**. NIV

A fool knows everything and will tell you so.

Proverbs 29 11...¹¹ A fool uttereth all his mind: KJV

Plato:

Wise men talk because they have something to say; fools, because they have to say something.

Sam Levenson:

It's so simple to be wise. Just think of something stupid to say and say the opposite.

A fool will defend his decisions vigorously.

Proverbs 12¹⁵ The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes: KJV

A fool doesn't learn the lesson.

Proverbs 26 ¹¹ As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his folly. NIV

It is one thing to lack experience and not understand, it another thing to not want to listen and not care.

3. The Mocker or Scorner

This character is **Critical** of everyone else doing the right thing.

They **control the environment by criticism**.

They are **filled with pride**.

Proverbs 21 ²⁴ The proud and arrogant man—“Mocker” is his name; he behaves with overweening pride.

The only cure for a mocker is to get them out of your life.

Proverbs 22 ¹⁰ Drive out the mocker, and out goes strife; quarrels and insults are ended. NIV

If a person persists in sitting in one of these three chairs there is a tragedy that follows:

WHEN THEY NEED WISDOM THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FIND IT.

Proverbs 1 ²⁰ Wisdom shouts in the streets. She cries out in the public square.

²¹ She calls to the crowds along the main street, to those gathered in front of the city gate:

²² “How long, you simpletons, will you insist on being simpleminded? How long will you mockers relish your mocking? How long will you fools hate knowledge?”

²³ Come and listen to my counsel. I'll share my heart with you and make you wise.

²⁴ I called you so often, but you wouldn't come. I reached out to you, but you paid no attention.

²⁵ You ignored my advice and rejected the correction I offered.

²⁶ So I will laugh when you are in trouble! I will mock you when disaster overtakes you—

²⁷ when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster engulfs you like a cyclone, and anguish and distress overwhelm you.

²⁸ "When they cry for help, I will not answer. Though they anxiously search for me, they will not find me.

²⁹ For they hated knowledge and chose not to fear the Lord.

³⁰ They rejected my advice and paid no attention when I corrected them.

³¹ Therefore, they must eat the bitter fruit of living their own way, choking on their own schemes.

³² For simpletons turn away from me—to death. Fools are destroyed by their own complacency.

³³ But all who listen to me will live in peace, untroubled by fear of harm." NLT

Proverbs 28:26... he who walks in wisdom is kept safe. NIV KJV says, "shall delivered".

The way out is to listen to wisdom.

George Bernard Shaw:

We are made wise not by the recollection of our past, but by the responsibility for our future.

What is the wise thing to do? Get out of the chair, listen, repent, confess, and seek wisdom.