

Get Smart; Got Smart - - Proverbs 9:10

Today we are wrapping up our series “GET SMART.” WISDOM - In light of your past experiences, your current circumstances, and your future dreams and aspirations, **what is the wise thing for you to do?**

Acting on the answers to that question will set you up to live a life of few regrets. But there’s a problem – You have to do something! For God to help you with the question – what is the wise thing to do - - you have to act on what you discover!

Illustration my granddaughter Maddy got a bike this Weekend and learned how to ride her bike for the first time. Her father Nick was helping Maddy start riding her **first bike** with training wheels. **How do you think she did?** Start speeding down the street and come back asking Dad to take off the training wheels? **WHY NOT?**

- Are you imagining Maddy full of fear, trembling, and tears from the fear of the unknown? **Why are your expectations so low when it comes to my granddaughter’s first time on a bike with training wheels?**
- Among the many reasons, at the top of the list it all boils down to untrained and unexperienced bike riders won’t make good decisions.
- Untrained cyclists don’t know the principles and guidelines of riding a bike. They don’t know the proper technique.
- Maddy’s desire and intent is pure and noble, but she’d ridden a bike before!

There are precepts and rules and principles for bike riding and everything else in life – isn’t there! Music, medicine, economics, communication, finances, ... life!

- In order to make wise decisions in any area of life, you need to understand those principles and guidelines and precepts and laws that govern that part of life – and made decisions based on them - right?
- If you choose a doctor, don’t you assume that person is an expert in his or her field of medicine? You assume that professional knows how the human body works and how to fix it if it stopped working correctly.
- You hire a mechanic to fix your car, don’t you expect them to understand the basics of your car - the fuel and electrical, ignition and computer systems. Don’t you want them to understand how the brakes and suspension work?

You see, knowing how and why things work makes you a better decision maker!
When you know the how and why things work, knowing the rules and principles narrows down our options and makes you better at what you do in life!

Of course, it works the other way too! When we ignore or don't know the rules and principles in any particular field – it causes problems, doesn't it?

This is why people who represent themselves in court

- **But - only knowing the rules and principles of a particular field is Not enough! To really be affective, you need more then just information! Knowing how to use the information you have - - that is wisdom!**

In life, knowledge and knowing how to use knowledge - that makes an expert!

- You need to know how things work...
- Then you need to know how to use that information knowledge nciples and laws and techniques

That works in all areas of life! Sports, marriage, parenting, personal and business finances, friendships, medicine and the list goes on.

Think back to my granddaughter learning to ride her bike

Can we expect to be an expert cyclist without knowing the principles of balance and – kinetic energy (AKA coasting) and all the techniques of biking? NO!

Nor can we expect to make a masterpiece out of life without knowing and applying the techniques and principles of life!

Let's go back to the wisest man who ever lived – besides Jesus – do you know what he said... “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”

Proverbs 9:10

**This means that wisdom begins by understanding who God is...
and who we are NOT!**

Let's not rush through this! Remember what I have been asking you to ask yourself through this sermon series? **WHAT IS THE WISE THING TO DO!**

- Last week I talked about the importance of talking to other people, not just people who will agree with you, but those few choice and respected, wise people in your life who see what is coming in your life!
- But to really understand the wise thing to do, you and I need to ask our Heavenly Father in heaven! The Lord God is the source of all wisdom, and wisdom begins by properly aligning ourselves with who God is!
- **Solomon said it this way** – “THE FEAR OF THE LORD.” In this context, “FEAR” means to recognize and revere - - and that leads to submission and application!

• **HERE IS MY POINT** – wisdom begins by recognizing who God is! That doesn't mean just knowing facts about God or recognizing God's power and knowledge. This is recognizing that you are dealing with the one and only Creator of the Universe, the creator of all things! Wisdom starts when we rightly recognize God... well... as God!

1. This proper recognition results in reverence. Reverence is the appropriate response to the One who created and controls all things!
2. The practical and life applicable part of reverence is submission and surrender! If you really recognize and surrender to God, the natural next step is to embrace the reality to rule everything He created! The moment that you recognize and surrender to that truth – that is the beginning of real wisdom!

Here is the full verse of Proverbs 9:10, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”

- Or... think of it this way, when we recognize and surrender to God... God is more than happy to reveal more and more of Himself to us. And as we discover more and more of the character and nature of God the Father, we gain greater understanding of the world around us!

Why?

God is the one who made it and controls it!

Now some of you are very comfortable with the idea of surrendering to God!
And for some of you... the idea of surrendering to God is very scary!

- Think of it this way, you unknowingly surrender to God's principles and laws every day! Every time you make a wise parenting decision... you are using (or surrendering to) one of God's principles. Every time you make a wise financial choice or legal choice or medical choice... you are applying one of God's principles!
- Right about now, I can hear someone saying - - But that's different, I'm just using common sense or good judgement!
- That may be how you see it, but if you are applying principles that existed before you chose them – you are borrowing from – and recognizing the wisdom of – God the Father!

Closing – this surrender, do you know it is mutual? It is one of the most powerful relational principles in the universe!

- Let me explain, when 2 people pledge to put the other first, that is relationship at it's best. It's the truth whether your talking about husband or wife, employee and employer, parent and child! Each one is pledging to put the other first.

That is mutual submission! It is nothing to be afraid of... it is a relationship of trust!

With that in mind, before you were born, God submitted Himself to you!
On a cross, God sacrificed His best for you! God put you before Himself.

That is what Romans 5:6-8 is all about.

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

When you had nothing to give to God, Jesus died for you! He put your sin ahead of his own well being and glory. Jesus submitted to you and took care of your greatest personal need at his own great personal expense! Jesus demonstrated His love for you!

- Here is the big point – our willingness to ask and respond to the question of what is wise, depends on how willing we are to decide whether we will completely submit our lives to God! That is where true wisdom starts!

God wants your life to be a masterpiece, God wants you to live your life as a master! Not as a little child learning to ride a bike with training wheels, but as a master cyclist who knows all the tricks and techniques of cycling

- But we need to let God influence our every move. What will you do?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, today I surrender myself to you. As you demonstrated your love for me through the death and resurrection of your son Jesus Christ, I want to demonstrate my love for you through a renewed mind and a surrendered will to you. I surrender all! In Jesus name I pray. Amen