

Common Sense And Good Judgement

“*Common*” sense is **not** so common.

Humanity is born with a complete lack of common sense and good judgement.

How then do we develop common sense and good judgement?

Proverbs 16:2 [King James] *“All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits.”*

We like to think we are wise and do have good judgement but this is **not** a birthright, they have to be learnt.

Proverbs 14:12 [King James] *“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”*

We all like to feel we are making right decisions in our lives, but they are **not** necessarily the right way that will lead to our being given eternal life by the Creator God.

Jeremiah 10:23-24 [Living Bible] *“O Lord, I know it is not within the power of man to map his life and plan his course, so you correct me, Lord, but please be gentle. Don't do it in your anger, for I would die.”*

Not until we approach our Creator God, and His Word, the Christian Bible, with this attitude of mind will we begin to learn common sense and good judgement.

Isaiah 55:6-9 [NIV] *“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. ‘For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,’ declares the LORD. ‘As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.’”*

Conversion is the changing of the way we think to that of the Creator God.

The way we automatically think is mental suicide.

This common sense, let us give it the right name, wisdom, is **not** to be found in human society.

1 Corinthians 2:6-10 [NIV] *“We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written: ‘No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him,’ but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.”*

True wisdom and good judgement is **only** revealed through the Christian message that is found in God's Word, the Christian Bible.

Do **not** read over the last few words of this scripture, *“but God has revealed it to us [Christians] by His spirit, [the Holy Spirit].”*

1 Corinthians 2:11 [NIV] *“For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no-one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.”*

All human intellect, the ability to think, plan and make decisions, come from the non-physical human spirit within us.

Job 32:8 [NIV] *“But it is the spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that gives him understanding.”*

This human spirit enters into the still unborn, [**Psalms 139:15-16**] and returns to the Creator God at death, [**Ecclesiastes 12:7**].

John 16:13 [NIV] *“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”*

It is the Holy Spirit working actively within our human spirit that will reveal to us the truth, God’s wisdom.

Acts 5:32 [NIV] *“We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”*

Only given to those who obey the Creator God. This is the starting point of receiving godly wisdom and good judgement.

1 Corinthians 2:12-15 [NIV] *“We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man’s judgment.”*

No human being can ever comprehend the Creator God completely, [**Romans 11:33-36**], but through the indwelling guidance of the Holy Spirit, believers have insight into some of the Creator God’s plans, thoughts and actions.

What is the difference between human and godly wisdom and judgement?

Different facts are available –

The human mind bases all decisions **only** on the facts that come to it through the five senses and is completely unaware of spiritual facts.

For example, the human mind can see no sense in paying a tithe of its income to the human work of the Creator God on earth.

Nor can the human mind understand how one human death, that of Jesus Christ, could be a substitute death to save all humanity from eternal death, [**John 3:16-17**].

The goal is different –

The natural human mind comes to a physical, here and now conclusion.

The spiritual influenced mind looks beyond the present physical life to the spiritual Kingdom of God, [**Matthew 6:33**].

Example, the spiritual orientated mind will **not** retaliate to an offence and seek revenge, [**Romans 12:19-21**].

Different motives behind every decision made –

The natural human mind is **only** self-interested, seeks what it can **get** for itself. Because of the self-centred attitude it **cannot** be impartial.

The spiritual-influenced mind is motivated by what it can **give** to others in serving them.

Matthew 20:25-27 [NIV] *“Jesus called them together and said, ‘You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave’”*

We see Jesus Christ as the perfect example of giving and serving other people. The apostle Paul also reflected this same motivation in his life after conversion, [**Acts 20:33-35**].

Example the natural human mind cannot see anything wrong with pre-marital sex, getting physical pleasure from the act without any loving commitment in a marriage union.

Judgement arrived at from a different set of values –

The importance we place on certain facts will be different if we start to look at them from the Creator God’s viewpoint.

Luke 16:13-15 [NIV] *“No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.’ The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. He said to them, ‘You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God’s sight.’”*

Here we see how physical material values were given priority over spiritual values by the Pharisees.

1 John 2:15-17 [NIV] *“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world, the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does, comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives for ever.”*

The world values material things that **only** have a very short life before they lose their value.

Ecclesiastes 2:18-19 [NIV] *“I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me. And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the work into which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun. This too is meaningless.”*

There are **no** physical things that we can take through death, **not** even our body, [**1 Corinthians 15:50**]. The only thing we have that is permanent is the godly character that we develop in life through an active presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, [**Galatians 5:22-23**] that is stored in our human spirit that returns to the Creator God after death, to be implanted in a new spiritual body, [**1 Corinthians 15:42-44**].

What then is godly wisdom and godly judgement?

Major guidelines towards such wisdom.

Knowledge –

Proverbs 10:14 [NIV] *“Wise men store up knowledge, but the mouth of a fool invites ruin.”*

The accumulation of documented facts on a wide range of subjects, enough knowledge to be able to ask the right questions.

Proverbs 15:14 [NIV] *“The discerning heart seeks knowledge, but the mouth of a fool feeds on folly.”*

Spend enough time to seek such facts.

Proverbs 2:6-7 [King James] *“For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.”*

All true knowledge is based on the Creator God’s Word, the Christian Bible.

Proverbs 15:22 [King James] *“Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.”*

We ask a large number of people a large number of questions before we come to a decision.

Good judgement is **not** memorising every possible answer to every possible problem but learning a relative few basic principles that are found in the Christian Bible and applying them to each unique problem.

Understanding –

Not the same as knowledge but the ability to perceive what the facts gathered say about the problem.

1 Kings 3:9 [King James] *“Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?”*

King Solomon asked the Creator God to give him understanding, the Hebrew word “*shâma*” meaning to hear and give attention to, diligently discern what is involved in the problem.

1 Kings 3:11 [King James] *“And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment;”*

A different Hebrew word “*bîyn*” meaning to separate mentally, discernment, to stand aside. Thus to be able to judge the situation without personal emotion being involved to shade the meaning of the facts.

This is telling us to think about the problem well before we voice our decision.

The Creator God gave us two eyes and two ears but only one mouth. Is He trying to tell us something?

Proverbs 18:13 [King James] *“He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.”*

Do **not** make snap judgements or decisions.

Proverbs 18:2 [Amplified Bible] *“A fool has no delight in understanding [discernment], but only in revealing his personal opinions.”*

Objectivity –

Always be aware of the moment and **not** allow any emotion involved to influence future actions, for emotions can affect sound judgement.

For example, we can in a moment of distress when we hear of another’s problem, promise to do things for them which when we consider them later are either impossible or impracticable.

James 1:19-20 [NIV] *“My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man’s anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.”*

A judgement made in anger, fear, revenge, envy or even undue sympathy will **not** be a sound judgement.

Always let our head rule our heart in making decisions.

Sensitivity and perceptiveness –

Matthew 9:1-3 [NIV] *“Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, ‘Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.’ At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, ‘This fellow is blaspheming!’”*

Jesus Christ saw their attitude of mind, the people did not have to say anything.

We need to learn to “*read*” a person’s face or “*feel*” an attitude.

Matthew 7:1-3 [NIV] *“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way as you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?”*

If we are sensitive to our own problems we will then be better equipped to assist others in theirs.

Learn to “*see*” the signs and signals of a problem about to explode on a person.

Experience –

Humans tend **not** to learn from history, we have to force ourselves to learn from the mistakes that others make, we tend to feel “*we are different*” or “*circumstances are not the same today.*”

Don’t be fooled by such feelings, human nature has **not** changed and all problems involve human beings.

1 Corinthians 10:6, 11 [NIV] *“Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.” ... “These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfilment of the ages has come.”*

The Creator God has given us many “*case histories*” in the Old Testament of the outcome of wise and unwise decisions made by the Israelites and the outcome will be the same today, [**Hebrews 13:8**].

Relative importance –

We always need to focus on the important facts in the matter for it is all too easy to allow small and relatively unimportant facts to shift our focus from the main issues.

Example of Martha and Mary, [**Luke 10:38-42**], both decisions were good, but Martha focused on the relatively less important needs of the body, it should have been “*mind before stomach.*”

We can overlook the obvious –

If God’s Word, the Christian Bible, tells us the decision was sinful there can be **only** one decision – stop it.

Extenuating circumstances do **not** count with the Creator God.

Consider the end result –

Proverbs 1:7 [NIV] *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.”*

If we do **not** seek to steer a correct course in life that will prepare us to receive the gift of eternal life and a job of work in God’s Kingdom as teachers and rulers, [**Revelation 1:4-6; Revelation 5:9-10; 1 Peter 2:9-12**], then the Creator God classifies us as a fool.

Proverbs 4:7 [NIV] *“Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.”*

The seeking of godly wisdom is the ultimate goal we have in this life.

We must always consider the end result of our decisions, for example:

Matthew 16:26 [NIV] *“What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?”*

Financial success now in this life at the expense of eternal life in the future.

2 Corinthians 6:14 [NIV] *“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?”*

Such a union may give us companionship and sexual fulfilment but with much heartache and greater pressure to turn our back on the Creator God and go back into the Satan-controlled world, [**1 John 5:19; 2 Corinthians 4:4**].

Character development –

The willpower to implement the proper course of action once the right decision has been made.

If we read the record of the life of Solomon he was given by God knowledge, understanding and great wisdom but **not** always the character to implement them in his own life.

The right reason –

James 1:5 [NIV] *“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”*

We should ask the Creator God for godly wisdom but as with every request to God it must be for the right reason, **not** for self-grandiosement, but to enable us to serve others now and in the world tomorrow as teachers and rulers.

Matthew 20:25-28 [NIV] *“Jesus called them together and said, ‘You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave, just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.’”*

The Christian’s perspective of leadership, which Jesus Christ illustrated in His own life as an example for every Christian to follow.

1 Kings 3:9-10 [NIV] *“‘So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?’ The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this.”*

If we are seeking godly wisdom for the same reason then the Creator God will be pleased with each of us also.