

**LOVE**  
 Without Hypocrisy  
 (in the book of Romans)

**41 – Being "self-wise"**

**Romans 12:16**  
 > The "Mind" Verse <

**3 ISSUES**

- BASIC ATTITUDE → Live in harmony with one another.
- REGARDING OTHERS → Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.
- REGARDING SELF → Do not be conceited. [TODAY]

Romans 12:16 (NIV)

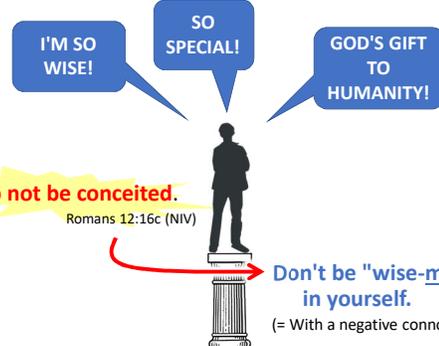
**A focus on our attitude and mind.**

**LAST WEEK: A FOCUS ON OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD OTHERS.**



**TODAY: A FOCUS ON OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD SELF.**

**ISSUE #3: NOT BEING "SELF-WISE"**



**Do not be conceited.**  
Romans 12:16c (NIV)

**Don't be "wise-minded" in yourself.**  
 (= With a negative connotation.)

**ATTITUDE OF SUPERIORITY AND IMPORTANCE**



**THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN JESUS' DAY HAD THIS ATTITUDE.**

"They do everything to attract people's attention. ...  
 They love the place of honor at dinners and the front seats in synagogues.  
 They love to be greeted in the marketplaces and to have people call them Rabbi." \*

Matthew 23:5a, 6-7 (GW)

\* ("Rabbi" = "Master Teacher")

**ATTITUDE OF SUPERIORITY AND IMPORTANCE**



**JESUS SAYS...**

"But **don't** make others call you Rabbi, because you have only one teacher, and you are all followers.  
 And **don't** call anyone on earth your father, because you have only one Father, and he is in heaven.  
**Don't** make others call you a leader, because you have only one leader, the Messiah."

Matthew 23:8-10 (GW)

**SELF-SUFFICIENT**

I'VE GOT EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL!

THE LUKEWARM CHURCH HAD THIS ATTITUDE.

"You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' "

Rev. 3:17a (NIV)

PAUL ENCOURAGED A TOTALLY DIFFERENT ATTITUDE.

For I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need.

Philipp. 4:13 (NLT)

**SELF-SUFFICIENT**

~~I'VE GOT EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL!~~

PAUL TEACHES US (BY HIS OWN EXAMPLE) ...

[Jesus] said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ... For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Cor. 12:9, 10b (NIV)

**HAVING "ALL THE ANSWERS"**

COME TO ME, I KNOW IT ALL!

SOME JEWS IN THE CHURCH AT ROME APPARENTLY HAD THIS ATTITUDE.

... if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark, an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of infants, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth ...

Romans 2:19-20 (NIV)

**HAVING "ALL THE ANSWERS"**

~~COME TO ME, I KNOW IT ALL!~~

ACCORDING TO GOD, TRUE WISDOM DOES NOT ORIGINATE IN US!

In [Christ] lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Col. 2:3 (NLT)

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Psalms 111:10a (GW)

**UNTEACHABLE, UNABLE TO "HEAR" OTHERS (INCLUDING GOD)**

I ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWERS!

ISRAEL HAD THIS ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD.

Our kings, princes, priests, and ancestors did not obey your law or listen to your commands and solemn warnings.

Neh. 9:34 (NLT)

They have turned to me their back and not their face.

And though I have taught them persistently, they have not listened to receive instruction.

Jeremiah 32:33 (ESV)

**UNTEACHABLE, UNABLE TO "HEAR" OTHERS (INCLUDING GOD)**

~~I ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWERS!~~

GOD SHOWS US THE PROPER ATTITUDE.

Teach me, O Lord, to follow every one of your principles.

Psalms 119:33 (NLT)

JESUS OFTEN WARNED PEOPLE:

"If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."

Mark 4:23 (NIV)

**RESULT: SUCH PEOPLE CANNOT OBEY THESE COMMANDS**

THAT VERSE DOES NOT APPLY TO ME!

OR MAYBE I CAN GIVE IT A "SYMBOLIC" MEANING!

"HARMONY" MUST MEAN "THEY ALL BOW DOWN TO ME"!

Live in *harmony with one another*.  
Do not be proud, but *be willing to associate with people of low position*.  
Do not be conceited.

Romans 12:16 (NIV)

**RESULT: THEY ARE NOT IN GOD'S KINGDOM**

THAT'S BACKWARDS!

YOU CHILDREN NEED TO GROW UP LIKE ME!

[The disciples:] "Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

[Jesus:] "I can guarantee this truth: Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 18:1, 3 (GW)

**RESULT: WITH THIS ATTITUDE, THEY CANNOT FOLLOW JESUS**

I SHOULD BE STANDING NEXT TO JESUS, NOT FOLLOWING HIM!

Then [Jesus] said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must put aside your selfish ambition, shoulder your cross daily, and follow me."

Luke 9:23 (NLT)

**RESULT: GOD OPPOSES THEM**

GOD OPPOSES ME? WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS?

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

James 4:6b (ESV)

"But what if ..."

WHAT IF MY "SPIRITUAL GIFT" IS WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE?

To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another he gives the gift of special knowledge.

1 Cor. 12:8 (NLT)

"But what if ..."

WHAT IF MY "SPIRITUAL GIFT" IS WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE?

I'M SO WISE... YOU NEED TO LOOK UP TO ME!

GOD MADE ME WISER THAN YOU!

**IF IT IS A SPIRITUAL GIFT, ...**

↓

- ✓ You will use it in a way that is *consistent* with the work and presence of the Holy Spirit!
- ✓ You will use it for the Kingdom of God!
- ✓ You will admit the source of your wisdom and knowledge.



In him [Christ] lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.  
Col. 2:3 (NLT)

**YOUR ATTITUDE WILL NOT BE ...**

↓

"IN ME I TRUST!"

**But rather ...**

↓

"I NEED YOU, GOD!"  
– The source of my wisdom.

"I NEED YOU, FELLOW CHRISTIANS!"  
– Because I lack the other spiritual gifts.




**NEXT TIME YOU'RE TEMPTED TO BE "SELF-WISE" ...**

I'M SO WISE!

SO SPECIAL!

GOD'S GIFT TO HUMANITY!

**Do not be conceited**  
[= "wise-minded" in yourself].  
Romans 12:16c (NIV)

**REMEMBER THESE THINGS...**



**(1) Not many of the world's "wise" are saved.**

At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children."  
Matthew 11:25 (NIV)

**[The Corinthians learned this fact]**

Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.  
1 Cor. 1:26b (NIV)



**(2) Those who are saved will CHANGE the focus of their boasting.**

Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."  
Jeremiah 9:23-24 (ESV)



**(3) Comparing yourself to your own standards is NOT wise.**

Certainly, when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves to themselves, they show how foolish they are.  
2 Cor. 10:12b (GW)

Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.  
Proverbs 26:12 (NASB)



#### (4) There are 2 types of "wisdom" – but only one type is wise to have!

Do any of you have wisdom and insight? Show this by living the right way with the humility that comes from wisdom.

But if you are bitterly jealous and filled with self-centered ambition, don't brag. ... That kind of wisdom doesn't come from above. It belongs to this world. It is self-centered and demonic.

James 3:13-14a, 15 (GW)



#### (This type of wisdom is wise to have!)

However, the wisdom that comes from above is first of all pure. Then it is peaceful, gentle, obedient, filled with mercy and good deeds, impartial, and sincere. A harvest that has God's approval comes from the peace planted by peacemakers.

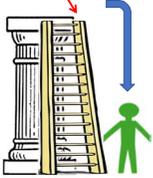
James 3:17-18 (GW)



## Your Mission...

MADE POSSIBLE BY:

"LADDERS BY GOD"



JOIN THOSE WHO ARE  
**TRULY WISE**

Get off your  
**"pedestal of self-wisdom"!**

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# Your Mission...

**"Do not be conceited."** [= a "wise-minded" self-opinion]  
**Romans 12:16c**



## THE WORLD'S WISDOM:

- Based on futile, corrupt thinking - Ephesians 4:17-20; Titus 1:15.
- Suppresses its awareness (knowledge) of genuine truth about God - Romans 1:18-23+.
- Considers God's wisdom (which is genuine and based on truth) to be "foolish" - 1 Corinthians 1:21, 25; 2:14.

## GENUINE WISDOM:

- Based on what Jesus says - Matthew 7:24-27. (As well as on the rest of the Bible, which Jesus affirmed in chapters 5-7.)
- The contrast between the two types of "wisdom" (genuine vs. the world's) - James 3:13-18.

### GENUINE WISDOM, IF ACCEPTED, WILL EFFECT ONE'S CONDUCT.

- It is to influence our interaction with others - Matthew 10:16.
- Parables: The "faithful and wise servant," who willingly fulfils his duties - Matthew 24:45-51; Luke 12:42-46; the "five wise virgins," who plan ahead - Matthew 25:1-13.
- Parable: The "unrighteous steward," who illustrates preparing for the future (though done in the way that an unrighteous person might do so) - Luke 16:8.

## BEING "SELF-WISE":

- Using one's self as the basis for evaluating one's self is not wise - 2 Corinthians 10:12!
- Being "wise in one's own estimation" may actually be an expression of ignorance - Romans 11:25 (an example).
- A warning against having a self-exalting, "self-wise" attitude - Romans 12:16c.
- The Corinthians were "wise" in their own eyes, in contrast to Paul - 1 Corinthians 4:10; 10:15; 2 Corinthians 11:19! (In some of these verses, Paul was using sarcasm.)

## God's KINDNESS TO THE UNSAVED: HE MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO HAVE SOME ASPECTS OF GENUINE WISDOM

- There *are* some types of wisdom that God enables the unsaved to have, in spite of their rebellion against God. The book of Proverbs is an example of this type of wisdom.
- Many of the Proverbs are designed to show us how to live better right now, in our day-to-day present life.
- Doing what the book of Proverbs teaches doesn't save a person *eternally*; but it helps restrain sin, and enables people to live a better life in this *present* life.
- Even *without* regard to eternity, God's Word has value! It is quite ironical that even those who *hate* God would have better lives *right now*, if they paid attention to God's instructions about living!