

# Self-Esteem – The Two Wisdoms

- Self-Esteem: When people see us as competent, knowledgeable, experienced, skilled, successful.
- We feel accepted, respected, comfortable.
- This is what wisdom and experience bring.
- BUT ... there are two types of wisdom and two types of people who view them from two different perspectives.
- *Has not God made foolish **the wisdom of this world?**  
21 For since, in **the wisdom of God**, the **world through its wisdom did not know God**, 1 Cor 1:20-22*
- Which wisdom/self-esteem do we seek?
- Who do we align ourselves ... Who are our peers?

# Ancient Wisdom / Wisdom of this Age

- However, ***we speak wisdom*** among those who are mature, yet ***not the wisdom of this age***, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7  
***But we speak the wisdom of God*** in a mystery, ***the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory***, *1 Cor 2:6-8*
- The wisdom of this age seeks the praise of men.
- The hidden wisdom ordained before the ages seeks the glory of God.

# Must Not Underestimate its Power

- *Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; 43 for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God. Jn. 12:42-43*
- All our decisions will be based on where we seek our glory, self-esteem and wisdom.

# Assess What we Consider Wisdom

- What is the source of our wisdom / Self esteem
- *Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. 1Cor 3:18-19*
- **The paradox:**
- What is wise in this age is foolish to God
- What is foolish in this age is wisdom to God.
- What we consider wise will strongly impact all decisions and how we later feel about them.

# A Grave Need to Assess Wisdom

- Just because we are really good at something or feel good about how we do something no longer proves we are truly wise...
- *Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. Jas. 3:13*
- A Great paradox:
- *"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' 39 But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. Mt 5:38-39*

# A Great Paradox

- *wise and understanding in **meekness of wisdom**.*
- A Great Paradox:
- Which seems wiser:
- *'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'*
- *Do not to resist an evil person.*
- *But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. Mt 5:38-39*
- How many Times do we feel foolish because we did not give them what they deserved?

# Two Wisdoms: From Above or Here

- *Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in **the meekness of wisdom**. 14 But if you **have bitter envy and self-seeking** in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 **This wisdom does not descend from above**, but is **earthly, sensual, demonic**. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. James 3:13-17*
- But Meekness of Wisdom is for the weak, wimps, sissies.
- That is the earthly sensual demonic wisdom speaking.

# “*Meekness of Wisdom*”

- “*prautes...* **“mild and gentle friendliness,”** is the opp. of roughness... of bad temper, or sudden anger... and brusqueness...” (Kittel, Vol 6 p 645-646)
- **“In English, “meekness” suggests weakness to a greater or less extent, whereas “prautes” does nothing of the kind. The meekness manifested by the Lord and commended to the believer is the fruit of power.”** (Vines)



# “*Meekness of Wisdom*”

- In the wisdom of the world the “*meek*” are weak. They only acting meekly because they don’t have the strength to do anything else.
- If we feel weak to turn the other cheek, it is because we don’t have the right wisdom.
- *Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Mt 5:5*
- *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. Mt. 11:29-30*
- Jesus used the ancient wisdom. The wisdom seen by God as wisdom.

# The True Wisdom from Above

- *But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. Jas. 3:17-18*
- Is this our wisdom?
- Is it time to become a fool to become wise?
- *Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. 1Cor. 3:18-19*

# The wisdom from above

## First pure... then

A child first learns the wisdom to add subtract multiply and divide then goes on to algebra.

A Christian must first learn the wisdom of purity, holiness and consecration proceeding from awe and reverence of God.

There can be no *wisdom from above* without this.

The best we can gain is “*a form of godliness,*” but we will know the *power that really drives and creates it.* 2 Tim 3:5

# The wisdom from above then... peaceable

“relates to peace; loving peace, one who pacifies.” Wisdom from above brings peace to our heart and peace to all our relationships. It “turns the other cheek,” “goes the second mile” and as “much as in it lies lives peaceably with all men.”

*Blessed are the peacemakers*

*As much as in you lies be at peace with all men.*

*Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace Rom. 14:19*

# The wisdom from above then... gentle

“equitable, fair, moderate, forbearing, not insisting on the letter of the law”

“it expresses a considerateness that lookshumanely and reasonably at the facts; uncontentious;”

*Let your gentleness be known to all men. Phil 4:5*

*Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded? 8 On the contrary, you yourselves wrong and defraud, and that your brethren. 1 Cor 6:7-9*

# The wisdom from above

## then... easy to be intreated

*“compliant”*

We are people who are easy to get along with.

Even when we are right and others are wrong we look for ways to make it as comfortable as possible for the offender.

Always seek to put others at ease.

*We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2*

*Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. Rom. 15:1-3*

# The wisdom from above then... full of mercy

“a sense of kindness, compassion and sympathy toward the plight of others joined with a powerful craving and need to help.

*Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.*

*Matt 5:7*

*For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.*

*James 2:13*