

WISDOMSHOUSE



Wisdom's House Briefmail: Love and Wisdom.

Love and Wisdom are desired by most, but the question is, do we know what we are asking for?

Let's start with what we think about wisdom. For the past fifteen years or so, I have asked many, "What is wisdom?" Though I am not a statistician, I can confidently say that the overwhelming response is similar: "It is knowledge and understanding applied," or something very close to that; i.e. – not just information, but knowing what to do with it. Not far behind is the connection between wisdom in making decisions – typically big decisions, and the asking for wisdom usually is driven by crisis, transitions, or major moments in life. The best response I've ever come across was something close to, "It is an orientation that sees the end goal of all things, and allows that perspective to change how we live . . . every day."

Some helpful questions for us might be, "If wisdom helps us to rightly apply what we know, and make good decisions, wouldn't we want it every moment of every day?" "Is it possible that there is more of God's Wisdom available to me?" "If God chose wisdom to be what He founded the earth by, might I too ask for, seek for, "get" His Wisdom to build my life?" "Is it possible to dwell with God's Wisdom in our hearts and minds?"

For the absence of God's Wisdom, we lose our vision and therefore our way. Our default orientation toward self (for the kids we call it the "S" elf.) causes us to lose direction, get high-centered, and most damaging – change definitions.

Our definition of love, for example, whether in the dictionary or the popular idea of love puts it in the category of a feeling or strong emotion; one that comes upon you and can leave at any given moment. We can fall into and out of love, most believe. In heaven's economy, "Love gives . . . everything."

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, . . ."
John 3:16a

"By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers."
1 John 3:16

It seems Paul had concern for the churches under his care, and their tendency to let the "S" elf redefine love, as he would orient the beginning of his letters with prayers that God would give the church that which would keep them centered in the goal of the fullness Christ and His love.

"I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, . . ." Ephesians 1:16-17 ESV

"I pray that your love would abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight . . ." Philippians 1:10 ESV

"And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, . . ." Colossians 1:9 ESV

Wisdom gives us the vision that will help us stay focused on that which is most important: Jesus Christ who loved as heaven loves. To love and lay down our lives for God, His People, and then others, in that order. If you want to enter into the love of God where you are giving and receiving love as He defines love, I would encourage you to get wisdom. If you begin to take a new look at God's Wisdom, you will be pleasantly surprised at how Wisdom will help you love and build the way heaven loves and builds.

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