

Biblical Wisdom Self-Assessment

Thesis: Ethics and Epistemology, rightly seated, should lead to the application of Godly wisdom.

Epistemology is involved with *knowledge*: how we know *what we know*, through God's revelation of himself and the world he's created.

Ethics is involved with how we obey God *as a response to his grace and mercy*. Obedience is not legalistic in and of itself; obedience *as an attempt to earn God's favor* is legalism. What we're talking about here is a *doxological* view of obedience, a response of gratitude to his gracious covenant with his people, a response that spreads the *knowledge* of his glory as the waters cover the seas (Habbakuk 2:14).

Definition of *Applied Wisdom*: *The right information with the right application to the right situation.*

A Biblical View – Main Points

Biblically, wisdom isn't just cognitive or emotional—it's covenantal, relational, and Spirit-given:

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Prov. 9:10).

In this view, wisdom involves:

- Right knowledge of God
- Obedience to His Word
- Discernment in complex situations
- Endurance under suffering (see James 1:5)

1. Fear of the Lord

Core Truth: Wisdom begins with reverence for God and submission to His authority.

Scripture: "*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.*" — Proverbs 9:10

Reflection Questions:

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- Do I live with a conscious awareness of God's presence and authority in daily decisions?
- Do I seek to please God more than people?
- Do I seek to please God more than myself?
- When I'm unsure, do I turn first to Scripture or rely on my own instincts?

2. Humility and Teachability

Core Truth: A wise heart is a humble and teachable heart.

Scripture: *"Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and turn away from evil."* Proverbs 3:7
"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice." Proverbs 12:15

Reflection Questions:

- How open am I to correction or godly counsel?
- Can I name a recent situation where I changed course based on wise input?
- Do I respond defensively, or with a learning posture when challenged?
- When God's perspective and counsel goes against the reality I perceive, do I yield in faith?
- Does biblical correction make me angry?
- Does biblical correction have to come from a particular person in order to be received?

3. Discernment and Right Judgment

Core Truth: Wisdom discerns good from evil, and chooses what pleases God even when it's costly.

Scripture: *"Solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil."* Hebrews 5:14
"The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason..." James 3:17

Reflection Questions:

- Do I pause to pray or reflect before making significant decisions?
- Can I tell the difference between what is *good* and what is merely *permissible*?
- Do I value peace-making, or do I escalate conflict?
- Do I detach from difficult choices or situations rather than push through conflict?

4. Endurance in Suffering

Core Truth: Wisdom helps us suffer faithfully and learn through trials.

Scripture: *"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God... and it will be given to him."* James 1:5
"We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance..." Romans 5:3–5

Reflection Questions:

- In hardship, do I ask "What is God doing in me?" or "Why is this happening?"

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- Do I pray for wisdom to endure or just for suffering to stop?
- Am I more mature today than I was a year ago because of what I've gone through?

5. Right Use of Words

Core Truth: Wisdom governs the tongue with truth, gentleness, and restraint.

Scripture: *"The tongue of the wise brings healing."* Proverbs 12:18

"Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt..." Colossians 4:6

Reflection Questions:

- Do my words build up or tear down?
- When I'm angry, do I pause or press forward?
- Are people more likely to come to me for wise words or avoid my counsel?

6. Seeking Counsel and Community

Core Truth: Wisdom grows in godly community, not isolation.

Scripture: *"In an abundance of counselors there is safety."* Proverbs 11:14

"Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17

Reflection Questions:

- Who has permission to speak into my life?
- Who do I deny permission to speak into my life, and why?
- Do I actively seek wisdom from mature believers, or only when in crisis?
- Am I part of a community that helps me grow in godliness?
- Do my choices produce life in the lives of others, or do they produce destruction?

7. Christ as Wisdom

Core Truth: True wisdom is found in Christ Himself.

Scripture: *"Christ... in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."*

Colossians 2:3

"The wisdom of God is foolishness to the world." 1 Corinthians 1:18–25

Reflection Questions:

- Do I view Jesus as a wise teacher, or the very source of all Wisdom?
- How does my union with Christ shape how I live, speak, and choose?
- How do I view the Bible as it relates to Wisdom?
- In what ways do I reflect the character of Christ in confusing or hostile situations?

Interpreting Your Assessment

1. Reverence and Moral Orientation (Fear of the Lord)

- **Ethical Dimension:** *Moral grounding in divine authority.*
- **Human Behavior:** Acts are oriented not by personal autonomy but by accountability to God. This defines the ethical starting point—not just what is “right,” but *why* it is right.

2. Humility and Teachability

- **Ethical Dimension:** *Moral responsiveness and openness to formation.*
- **Human Behavior:** A person’s ability to receive correction, change direction, and grow morally is central to character. Pride resists growth; wisdom embraces it.

3. Discernment and Moral Reasoning

- **Ethical Dimension:** *Ability to distinguish good from evil, even in moral grey zones.*
- **Human Behavior:** Not all choices are between good and bad—many are between better and best. This involves judgment shaped by purity, peaceability, and self-control, rather than impulse or popular opinion.

4. Endurance and Moral Fortitude

- **Ethical Dimension:** *The role of suffering in ethical maturity.*
- **Human Behavior:** Faithful endurance cultivates resilience, which in turn deepens moral perspective. This counters a utilitarian ethics of pain avoidance with a formative ethics of redemptive suffering.

5. Ethical Speech and the Power of Words

- **Ethical Dimension:** *Speech as moral action.*
- **Human Behavior:** Words are not neutral. They reveal the heart and either build up or destroy. Wisdom governs the tongue with restraint, truth, and grace.

6. Communal Formation and Accountability

- **Ethical Dimension:** *Moral development in community.*
- **Human Behavior:** Ethical growth is not a solo journey. It depends on being sharpened by others, submitting to godly counsel, and recognizing our blind spots.

7. Christocentric Wisdom

- **Ethical Dimension:** *Union with Christ as the center of ethical life.*
- **Human Behavior:** Rather than ethics rooted in abstract principles alone, behavior is formed through participation in Christ—His character becomes the believer’s moral compass and source of transformative power.

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Summary Table

Dimension	Ethical Focus	Behavioral Expression
Reverence for God	Moral authority	Ethical decision-making rooted in divine accountability
Humility	Moral responsiveness	Willingness to receive correction and grow
Discernment	Moral clarity	Distinguishing good, better, best, even under pressure
Endurance	Moral formation through suffering	Faithfulness in trial deepens character
Right Use of Words	Moral responsibility in speech	Speaking truth with grace, restraint, and healing intent
Community	Moral formation through relationship	Growing through accountability and mutual sharpening
Christ as Wisdom	Moral identity in Christ	Living out wisdom through union with Christ

ACTION:

Pray for God to help us all grow in all areas of Knowledge, Wisdom, Ethics, and Epistemology.