

The Wisdom of Man and the Wisdom of God

What God has NOT Joined Together

Introduction

- We are continuing our 2026 theme, What God has (and has NOT) joined together.
- The past several lessons have addressed things God has NOT joined together – Creation and macroevolution, fellowship with unbelievers, denominations, women as leaders in the church, God and mammon (money).
- Today, we address a root cause that is either at the foundation of these, or at least a factor
- God has NOT joined together His wisdom and the wisdom of man.

What does the Bible say?

- **1 Corinthians 1:18-25** – as Paul addresses the division among brethren in Corinth, he notes the problem includes the wisdom of men.
- **1:18-25** – the world views the cross as foolishness. Through mans wisdom they do not know God.
- **1:24-25** – the “foolishness of God” is wiser than men. NOTE: God is NOT foolish. This is hyperbole describing the greatness of His wisdom.
- **3:1-3** – the wisdom of this world is carnal and leads to division, strife, envy, behaving like mere men.

What does the Bible say?

- **1 Corinthians 3:18-20** – it is foolishness with God. It will NOT lead to redemption.
- This is why wisdom of man is not compatible with God's wisdom. **Cf. 1 Cor. 2:13-14** – the world cannot receive it because it is spiritually discerned (i.e., they do not want to know it).

What does the Bible say?

- **James 3:13-17** – the wisdom from below contrasted with the wisdom from above.
- Many other verses could be added to these to demonstrate how man's wisdom is incompatible with God's wisdom – spiritually speaking.

What is the wisdom of God?

- God's wisdom is His perfect knowledge that proceeds from Him.
- He created this world and thus knows what is best! He has revealed to us His will.
Proverbs 3:19, *The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; By understanding He established the heavens;*
- **Romans 11:33**, *Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!*
- What we know is what He has told us –
1 Corinthians 2:7-12

What is the wisdom of God?

- God's wisdom is His perfect knowledge that proceeds from Him.
- **Isaiah 55:8-9**, *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.*
- **Colossians 2:1-3**, *...that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

What is the wisdom of God?

- BUT we can know enough of His wisdom to live godly and righteous.
- **James 3:17-18**, *The wisdom from above is first pure, the peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy...*
- **Proverbs 9:10**, *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*

What is the wisdom of God?

- His knowledge is eternal -
- **2 Corinthians 2:6-7**, ...*wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory*
- Jesus Christ is the culmination of His wisdom –
1 Corinthians 1:18, 24, 30 - *But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—*

Why is man's wisdom not compatible?

- What is human wisdom?
 - It is when people depend on themselves, other humans and only what is materially observable, more than God and His will.
- When one rejects God because “I cannot see Him...”

Why is man's wisdom not compatible?

- Because it comes from a different source –
- **Proverbs 14:12**, *There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.*
- **John 8:44, 2 Corinthians 11:3**, *But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*

Why is man's wisdom not compatible?

- It is egocentric – meaning, your ego is what matters most. This is built on pride – **cf. Romans 1:18-25ff** - *men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness...*
- It can lead to one forgetting God, thinking He is not needed – **Romans 1:28** – *they did not like to retain God in their knowledge...*

Why is man's wisdom not compatible?

- It can be persuasive – **1 Corinthians 2:4** – *Paul worked to ensure his speech was NOT with persuasive words of human wisdom...*
- WHY is man's wisdom persuasive? Because he does NOT want to give God's wisdom due consideration. So he finds ways to explain God & His will away!

Why is man's wisdom not compatible?

- It redefines what God says – **cf. Galatians 1:6-9** – *men “turning to a different gospel which is not another...”*
- Some outright reject everything about God and/or His word. BUT it is something they must contend with!
- Since His word exists, they have to face it. They do so by questioning and corrupting it in every conceivable way. They set a standard of understanding so high, it is impossible to attain.
- Even among professed believers, some appeal to human wisdom to explain away what God says.

Why is man's wisdom not compatible?

- It appeals to emotions above truth – **Jeremiah 17:9-10**, *“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.*
- We have noted how emotions, and even one's conscience can deceive you.
- Yet how many place their feelings about absolute truth?

Why is man's wisdom not compatible?

- It appeals to traditions of men and binds them – **Colossians 2:8**, *Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.*
- Jesus dealt with this often. **Cf. John 11:49-50** – where the Jewish council reasoned it was more feasible to kill Jesus

Why is man's wisdom not compatible?

- How are human and divine wisdom contrasted?

	Human Wisdom	God's Wisdom
Its Beginning	Self, feelings, culture, human reasoning	"The fear of the Lord"
It trusts in	Personal judgment Visible results	His word and character
Its value	Status, comfort, power, control	Truth, holiness, humility & faith
Concerning the cross	Foolish or unnecessary	His power and salvation
Where it leads	Pride, confusion, every evil thing, death	Life, salvation and obedience

Why is man's wisdom not compatible?

- It leads to rejecting what God clearly says:
- Concerning baptism – **Acts 2:38, 22:16, Mark 16:16, 1 Peter 3:21, Galatians 3:26-27**
- Marriage for life – **Matthew 19:8-9, 1 Corinthians 7:10-16**
- The church I attend – **Ephesians 3:10-11, 1:22-23**
- How I worship – **John 4:24, 1 Corinthians 11-14**
- Being offensive – **1 Corinthians 8:9, Philippians 2:4**
- Compromising with error – **2 John 9-11, Ephesians 5:11**

Some other thoughts

- We are not dismissing the importance of wisdom!
Proverbs 4:5-8
- Good has been accomplished because of man's wisdom!
- Look at where the wisdom of this world has led us!

Some other thoughts

- Can one appeal to worldly wisdom and still be a good person and have honest qualities?
- Absolutely! In fact, most people possess more good than evil. Even an atheist can be morally good
- BUT it becomes a choice that has no real meaning beyond this life!
- And it does NOT dismiss the wisdom of God, which is often the source of why you ought to be good!
- God's standards, IF applied by all, would make this world a better place!

Some other thoughts

- BUT ultimately, the problem with human wisdom is that it CANNOT save you!
- It will not give you eternal life!
- **1 Corinthians 1:18**, only the message of the cross leads to salvation.

Concluding thoughts:

- **1 Corinthians 3:18-23**, *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... the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.*
- When it comes to your salvation you have to make a choice who you are going to follow.

Concluding thoughts:

- As a follower of God I may not have all the answers or understand WHY, but I DO have the answer that leads to salvation!
- And that is found ONLY in His word – **2 Peter 1:3**
- BECAUSE you do not have all the answers to life you may choose to reject God's wisdom, but when you do you are appealing to the wisdom of man and Satan. And that will NOT save you in the end.
- **Deuteronomy 30:19** – choose life!

Whose wisdom are you choosing to follow?

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