

Proverbs: Counsel

Community Group Questions

1. Have you ever trusted your own judgment and it was wrong?
2. Talk about a time in which you felt the Scriptures helped you with an issue or a decision that you had to make?
3. Do you have at least one friend that you can trust to give you good counsel?
4. Do you have someone in your life that not only knows the Lord but knows His Word and can counsel you when you face issues and decisions?

Proverbs chapter 1 starts the book off with a “*call to wisdom*” and in that call it reminds the reader that when we ignore wisdom we are actually turning away from good decisions and sound reason, when we do that, things will not go well

Proverbs 1:25-26 because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof. I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when terror strikes you,

This verse is wisdom personified (written as if wisdom was a person). When we are counseled to make the right decision or choice and we ignore it and a bad thing happens or we pay the price for our decision...it is like the wise counsel is standing there laughing at us saying “I told you so” (possible bad decision ill)

The purpose of the Proverbs is to Know and Understand wisdom...

Proverbs 19:20 Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.

The idea here is if you listen to wise counsel you are prepared for future decisions and issues that arise. So whether it be you make a mistake because you ignored wisdom and then you say “I am not making that mistake again” or you pay close attention anytime you have an opportunity to gain wisdom because you know in the future if the opportunity presents itself you will use the wisdom.

According to Health and Wellness Magazine these are the top 10 reasons people go for counseling.

- Major life decisions
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Anger Management
- Blended Family Issues
- Parenting concerns
- Addictions
- Grief and loss
- Eating disorders
- Lack of self-esteem

Many people seek professional counseling for various reasons but many of us would agree if the top reason people seek counsel are major life decisions, often times there are people in our lives that can give us wise counsel.

Where do we go for wise counsel? Normally the first thing we do is try to figure things out ourselves. We trust our own judgment But should we trust our own judgment? Yes and no *Proverbs 16:9 The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.* This verse helps us to understand that God has given us the mental capabilities to make plans but He has veto power.

I believe that when we are faced with issues and decision that need to be made we do rely on ourselves and that is not always the wrong because, we care about ourselves, we will research things and we want what is best for ourselves. But sometimes it is not good to trust our own judgment...listen to what *Proverbs 28:26 Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered.*

Why do the Proverbs call us fools if we trust in our own mind...I think the reasons are...

- We allow our emotions to overtake us
- We tend to be uninformed
- We did not go to God with it

Here is the trap...we can be so convinced with the decision or the issue we are facing that we forget that we are emotionally charged and attached, we start to ignore information that is needed and forget that God actually has the final say. Listen to what *Proverbs 12:15* *The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.* We get to the point in which we can't see anything else but our own viewpoint. "wise in our own eyes"

Both of the last two Proverbs end with telling us the benefit of seeking counsel

28:26...wisdom delivers us Deliverance...as in brings resolution or reasonable conclusions.

12:15...wise people listen to others with wisdom... It is wise to hear from other people...but who are those people?

Sometimes we can listen to the wrong people...*Proverbs 25:19*

Trusting in a treacherous man in time of trouble is like a bad tooth or a foot that slips.

Have you ever had a bad tooth or a cavity?

Have you ever slipped and fell?

We can agree that we all need wise council at some point in our lives...

Proverbs 20:18 Plans are established by counsel;

Who can we trust?

Jesus **Proverbs 3:5-6*

He gives us counsel through His Word and understanding through going to Him in prayer. How can we know we can trust Him...The GOSPEL proves we can

Friends that show love. Notice I added “that show love” am I suggesting it is possible to have friends that do not show love? You can answer this one...maybe you have friends that, lets just say they have a funny way of showing or convincing you that they love you, you are friends with them but they are not really the friends that fit the bill of what we learned last week. Remember under the point communicating love...*speaks words of life, willing to forgive and will confront when confrontation is needed.*

You know the type...yeah they are my friend but they can't watch my kids, yeah they are my friend but they can't borrow money from me, yeah they are my friend but I am not 100% sure I can trust your judgment because you do not show me love.

We need to seek counsel from friends that show us love.

Proverbs 27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

This is the type of friend you hold close and they are the type of friends that make life better.

Proverbs 27:9 Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel.

This is the type of friend that looks at your situation as if it were their own but then have the benefit of being on the outside of the situation looking in...the benefit is they can have clarity that you do not have because it is your situation.

We can trust Jesus, friends that show us love and the last group

People that Trust Jesus and know the Word. On this point some may disagree because they will say something like “I know someone that is wise or very smart and is not a Christian but I still trust them” and I would agree on certain matters for example if you need medical attention...you go to a Physician....if you need your car worked on you go to a mechanic...the idea is if you have a specialized problem or issue and you have to make decision it is wise to go to an expert in that field.

When it comes to general life issues like relationships, finances, parenting, career moves...I believe it is wise to seek Godly counsel from a person that trusts Jesus and knows the Word, as well counsel from people that have wisdom in those areas... listen to *Proverbs 15:22 Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.*

So here in my suggestion...ask multiple people but make sure at least one trusts Jesus knows the Word.

Proverbs 11:14 Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.

The reason there is safety is not only different perspectives...it also take extra time and if it is a situation in which you have time...take the time. Think about this...have you ever went to buy a car? (I don't want to offend any cars sales people) but it seems to me they don't want you leave without buying a car...why? Because you can think about it, research it, ask people and many times with that extra time you may not return.

Even with something like buying a car seeking counsel from someone that knows the Word will be helpful because at the end of the day our finances are part of our spiritual life.

In life decisions and situations we will all need wise counsel...When looking for wise counsel we can go to what Jesus tells us in His Word, friends that show us love and others that trust Jesus and know His Word.