

HOW TO DISCERN WISE COUNSEL FROM FOOLISH COUNSEL

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(Proverbs 14:7) (Proverbs 4:20-22)

It is imperative to discern the difference between wise counsel and foolish counsel. If you do not know the difference between the two you will make the mistake in doing the **WRONG** thing, following the **WRONG** person and going the **WRONG** direction. Not knowing how to discern the difference between foolish counsel and wise counsel will cause you to experience many tragedies.

Adhering to foolish counsel will cause you to receive a consequence. Adhering to wise counsel will cause you to receive a reward. Listening to foolish counsel will lead you toward living a foolish life. Foolishness will only produce more foolishness. In order to **DISCERN** the advice you are receiving you must examine **THE SOURCE IN WHICH IT ORIGINATED FROM!**

The source is **NOT** the person distributing the information. The source is derived from a person's **BELIEF SYSTEM!** A person will always give you advice from what they believe. It may be moral or immoral.

In order to discern wise counsel from foolish counsel you must find out what a person believes in. For example. If you seek counsel from an individual who believes immortality is the new morality they will lead you down the road of destruction. **BEFORE YOU SEEK COUNSEL FROM A PERSON, ANALYZE THEIR BELIEF SYSTEM.** This will determine if the advice is coming from a source of foolishness or wisdom.

HERE ARE TWO EXAMPLES THAT WILL HELP
BRING MORE CLARITY.

- If you are seeking **FINANCIAL** advice you need to know what that person believes about finances. Do they believe in investing more than sowing? Do they believe

in spending more than saving? Do they believe in short term pleasure over long term joy? These are the questions that must be asked so you can discern the content of the counsel.

- If you are seeking **MARRIAGE** advice you need to know what that person believes about marriage. Do they believe that the institution of marriage was founded on the Bible? Do they believe that marriage is **SOLEY** meant for one woman and one man? These are the questions that must be asked so you can discern the content of the counsel.

A FOOL CANNOT TEACH YOU ANYTHING

Proverbs 14:7

Proverbs 14:7 says, "*Stay away from fools, because they can't teach you anything.*" No matter who they are or where they come from if they are foolish, their counsel is worthless. The only thing a fool can do is lead you toward

the road of destruction. Foolish counsel persuades you to believe what is **CONTRARY** to the Word of God. Foolish counsel will influence you to rely on yourself instead of God. Foolish people will cause you to receive everything negative.

HERE ARE TEN WAYS TO IDENTIFY FOOLISH COUNCIL

- **FOOLISH COUNSEL** will make natural sense. However, it will not produce supernatural results.
- **FOOLISH COUNSEL** will create more confusion.
- **FOOLISH COUNSEL** will not create peace. It will produce discord.
- **FOOLISH COUNSEL** will cause you to lose more than you will gain.

- **FOOLISH COUNSEL** will lead you into poverty. For example. Foolish counsel will take you from being employed to unemployed. It will take you from being married to getting divorced. It will take you from having money to being broke.
- **FOOLISH COUNSEL** entertains and encourages wrong thinking and immoral behavior.
- **FOOLISH COUNSEL** will persuade you to follow the philosophy of the world instead of adhering to the principles of the Kingdom of God.
- **FOOLISH COUNSEL** will influence you to follow what is popular instead of what is righteous.
- **FOOLISH COUNSEL** will lead you toward painful experiences.

- **FOOLISH COUNSEL** will lead you toward feeling regretful.

WISE COUNSEL PRODUCES PROSPERITY

Proverbs 4:20-22 says, *"My child, pay attention to my words; listen closely to what I say. Don't ever forget my words; keep them always in mind. They are the key to life for those who find them; they bring health to the whole body."*

Wise counsel will always correct wrong behavior. Wise counsel will not please your flesh. The people who give you wise counsel will teach you how to live righteously. They will lead you toward a place of prominence and honor.

HERE ARE TEN WAYS TO IDENTIFY WISE COUNSEL

- **WISE COUNSEL** will lead you to victory.

- **WISE COUNSEL** will give you clarity where there is confusion.
- **WISE COUNSEL** will create more peace than trouble.
- **WISE COUNSEL** will produce prosperity.
- **WISE COUNSEL** will help you attain favor with God and men.
- **WISE COUNSEL** will correct wrong thinking and immoral behavior.
- **WISE COUNSEL** will encourage you to lean on your faith.
- **WISE COUNSEL** will focus you on what is before you, not behind you.

- **WISE COUNSEL** will protect you from bad experiences.
- **WISE COUNSEL** will lead you toward feeling grateful.

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