

Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. *1 Corinthians 1:20-21*

We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. *1 Corinthians 2:6-8*

Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become “fools” so that you may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God’s sight. As it is written: “He catches the wise in their craftiness; and again, “The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.”

1 Corinthians 3:18-20

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. *Colossians 2:8*

Wisdom = PERSPECTIVE

earthly > unspiritual

Refuses to consider or care about an unseen world, a future life or destiny.

“... Such wisdom is earthly, unspiritual,
from the devil” (3:15)

Ironically, this deception is the work of a “spiritual” being who is **invisible**, **rebellious**, and **evil**.

Implications of man's (earthly,
unspiritual) "wisdom"

- Existence or authority of God is unacceptable or unimportant

- Scripture carries no weight or influence

- **Morality or ethics can only be cultural or personal**

- “Right” is determined by “might”
and I WILL BECAUSE I CAN

- Spiritual qualities are unimpressive while appetites of the flesh are prized

- Mostly impressed with materialism, intelligence, influence, or accomplishments i.e. much boasting and no credit given to God

- Naturally skeptical, suspicious, or jealous towards others (who are most often only viewed as “competition”)

heavenly > spiritual

Accepts the reality of the spiritual realm
and (through faith) seeks to **understand**
and **apply** THAT reality to THIS material
world and its pursuits.

Human wisdom, focusing on **accomplishments** and **pleasures** is a dead end ... folly, frustration, and futility.

God's wisdom, focusing on **righteousness** and **relationship** brings confidence and peace.

REAL WISDOM

UNDERSTAND (big picture)

ACCEPT (reality)

PREPARE (action)

Real wisdom is not **intellectual** but **behavioral**. “Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him **SHOW IT** by his good life, by deeds ...” (*James 3:13*)