



INTRODUCTION

Part 9 - It Matters How We Live

The series, Wise Guy, explores wisdom from the biblical book of Proverbs. Solomon asked God for wisdom to rule God's nation, and He granted the request. We could all use a little more wisdom, insight, knowledge and understanding, too.

Solomon, one of the wisest men who ever lived, penned the Old Testament book of Proverbs to address our need to know and understand life. His insights can help us navigate relationships, work, pleasure, and a host of other challenging situations.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Did you grow up believing that Christianity was about following a bunch of rules? How did that make you feel? What is wrong with a rule-based approach to Christianity?
2. Do you think most people view Christianity as a list of do's and don'ts? Explain your answer.
3. Why do you think it might be better for us to focus on our relationship with Christ rather than a bunch of rules?
4. Are rules sometimes bad? Can you think of an example where rules can have a negative effect on us? Can you think of how rules can be good?
5. Read Proverbs 2:7; 11:19-20; 4:18-19; 10:9 and 21:3. How would you define "righteousness?" According to these verses, what are some of the benefits or blessings associated with doing what is right? What are some of the consequences for not doing what is right?
6. Do you think that good always comes to "the righteous" and bad comes to the "unrighteous?" Explain your answer.
7. Why do you think a lot of people reject what God says is "good and right" according to what the Bible teaches?
8. How might you apply this lesson to your life?

APPLICATION

The wisdom sayings in the book of Proverbs are not necessarily promises, but principles. God knows what is good, and His commands and advice to us are for our good. Even so, we often don't make the correlation between the things we do and the quality of our life, and we miss the idea that it matters how we choose to live.

It is possible that we are not as happy as we should be because of things we've allowed into our lives that are not good. It is possible that the things we are doing—which we know aren't pleasing to God—are keeping us from enjoying life fully. Living according to what God says is good and right will lead to a better life than living contrary to God's Word. Although "being good" won't get you into Heaven, and it won't keep bad things from happening to you, living according to what is taught in the pages of the Bible is life-giving, and it matters. God has set things up so that if people walk uprightly, they will do better than if they don't.

KEY VERSES

Proverbs 2:7	Acts 24:16
Galatians 6:7	Proverbs 21:3
Proverbs 11:19-20	Proverbs 14:34
Romans 6:23	2 Chronicles 7:14
Proverbs 4:18-19	Joshua 1:8
Proverbs 10:9	