

## The Only Wise God

### Discussion Questions:

1. What was the worst advice someone ever gave you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What is the most important factor in deciding to listen to some ones advice?

God's wisdom means that God always chooses the best goals and the means to those goals. This definition goes beyond the idea of God knowing all things and specifies that God's decisions about what he will do are always wise decision: that is, they always will bring about the best results (from God's ultimate perspective), and they will bring about those results through the best possible means. (Systematic Theology, Grudem pp. 193)

### Knowing the "Only Wise God"

Wisdom is a fundamental characteristic of God that is displayed through Creation, revealed through Scripture, proven in the Christian life. Theologians call this an **attribute of God**.

1. It is through God's wisdom that the universe was created. God designed the earth, aligned the stars and planets in their orbits, and the complex environment we depend on.

<sup>[23]</sup> "God understands the way to it, and he knows its place. <sup>[24]</sup>For he looks to the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens. <sup>[25]</sup> When he gave to the wind its weight and apportioned the waters by measure, <sup>[26]</sup> when he made a decree for the rain and a way for the lightning of the thunder, <sup>[27]</sup> then he saw it and declared it; he established it, and searched it out. (Job 28:23-27 ESV)

2. Wisdom is revealed in God's plan of salvation because it counter intuitive to what we believe what a messiah should be.

<sup>[18]</sup> For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>[19]</sup> For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." <sup>[20]</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>[21]</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. (1 Corinthians 1:18-21 ESV)

God desires a relationship where we will know him more using his wisdom and not our own. God seeks a relationship where he can impart his wisdom to us so that we are sanctified and he is glorified.

1. When God created man in his own image, this set us apart from creation. God created a being that could appropriately understand and respond to a relationship between the Creator and the created.

[26] Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." [27] So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:26-27 ESV)

2. God is always ready to impart wisdom to us if we choose to receive it. We must learn to receive God's wisdom with reverence and a readiness to dive deep into the written word of God.

"Not till we have become humble and teachable, standing in awe of God's holiness and sovereignty, acknowledging our own littleness, distrusting our own thoughts and willing to have our minds turned upside down, can divine wisdom be ours" (Knowing God pp.101)

[5] If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. [6] But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. (James 1:5-6 ESV)

Theologians call this a **communicable attribute of God**.

### **What is God's Wisdom Not**

"God's almighty wisdom is always active, and never fails. All his works of creation and providence and grace display it, and until we can see it in them, we just are not just seeing them straight. But we cannot recognize God's wisdom unless we know the end for which he is working." (Knowing God, pp. 91)

1. God's wisdom cannot be compared to our own. It is comparing apple to oranges because we do not have God's foreknowledge and power to make a decision with the best possible outcome.

"Power is as much God's essence as wisdom is. Omniscience governing omnipotence, infinite power ruled by infinite wisdom, is a basic biblical description of the divine character... Wisdom would be a pathetic, a broken reed; power without wisdom would be merely frightening; but in God boundless wisdom and endless power are united, and this makes him utterly worthy of our trust." (Knowing God pp. 91)

2. We make the mistake that the wisdom that God imparted on us as a gauge of how close we are to God. This leads to the assumption that it is possible to discern all events and mysteries of God if you have enough spirituality.

“Yet we must also remember that God’s wisdom is not entirely communicable: we can never fully share God’s wisdom. In practical terms, this means that there will be frequently be times in this life when we will not be able to understand why God allowed something to happen.”  
(Systematic Theology, Grudem pp. 194)

### **The Only Wise God as Comforter**

How can we take comfort in knowing that God’s wisdom is trustworthy and unfailing during our trials? God has shown historically that the trials and sufferings of his people were not meaningless. Their changed lives were for God’s glory and their benefit. This is still true in the present.

1. God’s wisdom is the application of his moral goodness. God is completely and steadfast in wisdom. God is historically consistent with his actions throughout human history. There is no proof otherwise.

“All God’s acts are done in perfect wisdom, first for His own glory, and then for the highest good of the greatest number for the longest time. And all his acts are as pure as they are wise, and as good as they are wise and pure. Not only could his acts not be better done: a better way to do them could not be imagined. An infinitely wise God must work in a manner not to be improved upon by finite creatures.” (The Knowledge of the Holy, Tozer pp. 93-94)

2. God encourages us to depend on his infinite wisdom instead of our own wisdom. God promises that it will benefit us in the present and give us hope in the future.

<sup>[13]</sup> My son, eat honey, for it is good, and the drippings of the honeycomb are sweet to your taste. <sup>[14]</sup> Know that wisdom is such to your soul; if you find it, there will be a future, and your hope will not be cut off. (Proverbs 24:13; Proverbs 24:14 ESV)

3. God will use events in our lives to draw us closer to him and challenge our identity to reveal cracks and faults in our character. God loves as we are but longs to shape and mold us to the person God created us to be.

“Once again, we are confronted with the wisdom of God ordering the events of a human life for a double purpose: the individual’s own personal sanctification, and the fulfilling of his appointed ministry and service in the life of the people of God.” (Knowing God, pp.97)

<sup>[16]</sup> And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. (Isaiah 42:16 ESV)

**Conclusion**

“The the effect of his gift of wisdom is to make us more humble, more joyful, more godly, more quick sighted as to his will, more resolute in the doing of it and less troubled (not less sensitive, but less bewildered) than we were at the dark and painful things of which our life in this fallen world is full. The New Testament tells us that the fruit of wisdom is Christlikeness – peace, and humility, and love – and the root of it is faith in Christ as the manifested wisdom of God.” (Knowing God, pp. 108)