

## Doctrine of Being a Wise Person

### Characteristics of the Wise

1. The wise know when they do not know something. There is a limit to knowledge. Understanding this is the beginning of wisdom. It is good when a person knows he does not know something.
  - *Genesis 41:8 And it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled; and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all the wise men thereof: and Pharaoh told them his dream; but there was none that could interpret them unto Pharaoh.*
  - *Daniel 2:27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king;*
2. The wise will seek out a good education. The foundation for being wise is to have basic knowledge in a variety of fields.
  - *Exodus 7:11 Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments.*
3. The wise will guard their hearts. Wise people can become corrupt if their heart is not guarded.
  - *Exodus 23:8 And thou shalt take no gift: for the gift blindeth the wise, and perverteth the words of the righteous.*
4. The wise will seek to be skilled in a variety of areas. Wisdom is manifested in a variety of different areas of endeavor including academic excellence but also in the arts and crafts.
  - *Exodus 36:4 And all the wise men, that wrought all the work of the sanctuary, came every man from his work which they made;*
5. The wise will not accept a bribe. One way to corrupt the wise is to accept a bribe or a gift to take righteousness in a different direction and thereby pervert justice.
  - *Deuteronomy 16:19 Thou shalt not wrest judgment; thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous.*
6. The wise will understand the times. The wise will be a discerner of the society in which they live.
  - *Esther 1:13 Then the king said to the wise men, which knew the times, (for so was the king's manner toward all that knew law and judgment:*

7. The wise will not be unduly proud.

- *Job 5:13 He [God] taketh the wise in their own craftiness: and the counsel of the froward is carried headlong.*

8. The wise seek to have wisdom.

- *Proverbs 1:6 To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.*

9. The wise cover themselves in glory by right speech and right living.

- *Proverbs 3:35 The wise shall inherit glory: but shame shall be the promotion of fools.*

10. The wise receive correction and instruction in righteousness.

- *Proverbs 10:8 The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall.*

11. The wise will not become enslaved to another.

- *Proverbs 11:29 He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind: and the fool shall be servant to the wise of heart.*

12. The wise will be temperate in their speech.

- *Proverbs 12:18 There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.*
- *Proverbs 14:3 In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them.*

13. The wise will love the law of God for it becomes a fountain of life.

- *Proverbs 13:14 The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.*

14. The wise man will protect his financial resources.

- *Proverbs 14:24 The crown of the wise is their riches: but the foolishness of fools is folly.*

15. The wise person will not misuse knowledge. True truth will be spoken.

- *Proverbs 15:2 The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.*

16. The wise person will not keep silent but will dispense knowledge.

- *Proverbs 15:7 The lips of the wise disperse knowledge: but the heart of the foolish doeth not so.*

17. A wise person will not be a scorner.

- *Proverbs 15:12 A scorner loveth not one that reproveth him: neither will he go unto the wise.*

18. The wise person loves what heaven loves. He thinks from a divine point of view.

- *Proverbs 15:24 The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath.*

19. The wise will have ears sensitive to and open to correction.

- *Proverbs 15:31 The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise.*

20. The wise will seek to increase learning and move cautiously in life.

- *Proverbs 16:21 The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning.*
- *Proverbs 18:15 The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.*

21. The wise will learn self control of the tongue and not give others a “piece of their mind” needlessly.

- *Proverbs 16:23 The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips.*

22. The wise person will learn from the punishment of others and be meek enough to receive instruction.

- *Proverbs 21:11 When the scorner is punished, the simple is made wise: and when the wise is instructed, he receiveth knowledge.*

23. The wise person possesses treasure desired by others.

- *Proverbs 21:20 There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up.*
- *Proverbs 22:17 Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply thine heart unto my knowledge.*

24. The wise person is not unduly critical of others.

- *Proverbs 24:23 These things also belong to the wise. It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment.*

25. The wise man is observant.

- *Ecclesiastes 2:14 The wise man's eyes are in his head; but the fool walketh in darkness: and I myself perceived also that one event happeneth to them all.*

26. The wise person understands his own mortality.

- *Ecclesiastes 2:16 For there is no remembrance of the wise more than of the fool for ever; seeing that which now is in the days to come shall all be forgotten. And how dieth the wise man? As the fool.*

27. The wise person knows the limitation of wisdom in this world. Knowledge is not enough.

- *Ecclesiastes 6:8 For what hath the wise more than the fool? What hath the poor, that knoweth to walk before the living?*

28. The wise person has a sensitive heart that is capable of mourning.

- *Ecclesiastes 7:4 The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.*

29. The wise person will speak in the strongest terms when necessary.

- *Ecclesiastes 7:5 It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools.*

30. The wise man seeks wisdom.

- *Ecclesiastes 7:19 Wisdom strengtheneth the wise more than ten mighty men which are in the city.*

31. The wise person has an essential glory to his human countenance. His face reflects calmness and confidence.

- *Ecclesiastes 8:1 Who is as the wise man? And who knoweth the interpretation of a thing? a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed.*

32. The wise bow before the sovereignty of God.

- *Ecclesiastes 9:1 For all this I considered in my heart even to declare all this, that the righteous, and the wise, and their works, are in the hand of God: no man knoweth either love or hatred by all that is before them.*

33. The wise person knows there are circumstances beyond his control.

- *Ecclesiastes 9:11 I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.*

34. The wise understand the power and provocative nature of words.

- *Ecclesiastes 12:11 The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd.*

35. The wise person knows the difference between human wisdom and counsel, and divine.

- *Isaiah 19:11 Surely the princes of Zoan are fools, the counsel of the wise counsellors of Pharaoh is become brutish: how say ye unto Pharaoh, I am the son of the wise, the son of ancient kings?*

36. The wise can be shamed and should be ashamed when they reject the word of the Lord.

- *Jeremiah 8:9 The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the Lord; and what wisdom is in them?*

37. The wise person is dependent upon spiritual illumination and divine revelation.

- *Jeremiah 9:12 Who is the wise man, that may understand this? and who is he to whom the mouth of the Lord hath spoken, that he may declare it, for what the land perisheth and is burned up like a wilderness, that none passeth through?*

38. The wise person will be clothed in humility.

- *Jeremiah 9:23 Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:*

39. The wise person knows he is not the greatest in the land.

- *Jeremiah 10:7 Who would not fear thee, O King of nations? For to thee doth it appertain: forasmuch as among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, there is none like unto thee.*

40. The wise person often becomes the target of the unrighteous.

- *Jeremiah 18:18 Then said they, Come, and let us devise devices against Jeremiah; for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come, and let us smite him with the tongue, and let us not give heed to any of his words.*
- *Daniel 2:12 For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. 13 And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.*

41. The wise person is a stabilizer in society.

- *Ezekiel 27:9 The ancients of Gebal and the wise men thereof were in thee thy calkers: all the ships of the sea with their mariners were in thee to occupy thy merchandise.*

42. The wise person has emotional control of the soul under pressure situations.

- *Daniel 2:14 Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon:*

43. The wise person is a praying person.

- *Daniel 2:18 That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.*

44. The wise person knows God is the ultimate source of any knowledge and wisdom.

- *Daniel 2:21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:*

45. The wise person can display a holy boldness.

- *Daniel 2:24 Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise men of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise men of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation.*

46. The wise person knows how to handle not only adversity but prosperity as well.

- *Daniel 2:48 Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon.*

47. The wise man will impress others as Daniel impressed king Nebuchadnezzar.

- *Daniel 4:6 Therefore made I a decree to bring in all the wise men of Babylon before me, that they might make known unto me the interpretation of the dream.*
- *Daniel 4:18 This dream I king Nebuchadnezzar have seen. Now thou, O Belteshazzar, declare the interpretation thereof, forasmuch as all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known unto me the interpretation: but thou art able; for the spirit of the holy gods is in thee.*

48. The wise man is not motivated by earthly rewards though he may be tempted with them.

- *Daniel 5:7 The king cried aloud to bring in the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers. And the king spake, and said to the wise men of Babylon, Whosoever shall read this writing, and shew me the interpretation thereof, shall be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about his neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.*
- *Daniel 5:15 And now the wise men, the astrologers, have been brought in before me, that they should read this writing, and make known unto me the interpretation thereof: but they could not shew the interpretation of the thing:*

49. The wise person has not only information or knowledge, but understanding, or the implications of the information he possesses. The wise person has discernment.

- *Daniel 12:10 Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.*

50. The wise person is not immune to divine discipline.

- *Obadiah 8 Shall I not in that day, saith the Lord, even destroy the wise men out of Edom, and understanding out of the mount of Esau?*

51. The wise person is subject to manipulation and so must be careful to whom he speaks and what he says.

- *Matthew 2:7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.*

52. The wise person can make others angry.

- *Matthew 2:16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men.*

53. There is a divine judgment that can come upon the wise man that abuses grace.

- *Matthew 11:25 At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.*

54. The wise do what is right when it is the proper time to do so.

- *Matthew 25:4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.*

55. The wise will protect their resources from the foolish.

- *Matthew 25:8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.*
- *Matthew 25:9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.*

***Special Notes.***

56. The Christian can be a debtor to worldly wisdom insofar as it reflects true truth.

- *Romans 1:14 I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.*

57. God will destroy the wisdom of this world.

- *1 Corinthians 1:19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.*

58. The wisdom of the world is no match for the wisdom of God.

- *1 Corinthians 1:20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this world? Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?*
- *1 Corinthians 1:27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;*
- *1 Corinthians 3:19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.*
- *1 Corinthians 3:20 And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.*