

Codes for the Will:

Seeking Advice from Others

Message By Ken Baugh

"Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance."
Proverbs 1:5

"For lack of guidance a nation falls, but many advisers make victory sure." **Proverbs 11:14**

"The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice." **Proverbs 12:15**

"Wisdom is found in those who take advice." Proverbs 13:10

"Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed." **Proverbs 15:22**

"Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise." Proverbs 19:20

"Make plans by seeking advice..." **Proverbs 20:18**

"The pleasantness of one's friend springs from his earnest counsel." **Proverbs 27:9**

"Get all the advice you can and be wise the rest of your life." **Proverbs 19:20 (LB)**

"When I was in the Marine Corps our ship one time was at the northeastern corner of Formosa (now called Taiwan) near Taipei. We stopped there at the mouth of the harbor and awaited the arrival of the harbor pilot, who came out and took the wheel of the ship and began to weave us through the pathless waters that led to the dock itself. At first glance that seemed like an unnecessary thing to do. We could see the dock less than a mile ahead. But the closer we looked and the longer we looked over the side of the ship into the crystal clear waters, we could tell why. There were mines located randomly beneath the surface of the water. If the hull of our ship had nudged a mine just enough, disaster would have occurred. But the pilot of the harbor knew where every mine was located."

The Tale Of The Tardy Oxcart:
Chuck Swindoll, 254.

Opening Question:

If you had to make a major life decision, who is the first person that you would go to for advice and why?

THE BIBLICAL VALUE OF GODLY COUNSEL

Why is it essential that we seek Godly advice when discerning God's Will?

What difference can Godly advice make in the life of a Christ follower?

"The Hebrew word here for 'guidance' is comparable to 'steering a ship'. God uses the wisdom of godly people to steer us in the right direction."

What does our need for others' wisdom teach us about the Body of Christ?

"Nearly every king mentioned in Scripture relied on advisers to share their wisdom in difficult situations. David and Solomon turned to their trusted counselors when in need. Moses spoke with his father-in-law. In the early church the believers looked to the disciples for counsel. Even Paul had those he could turn to for wisdom. First it was Barnabas, and Paul was also willing to listen to the leadership of the church in Acts 21:20-25." Dr. Bruce Waltke: Finding The Will Of God, 112.

WHY IS SEEKING GODLY COUNSEL IMPORTANT?

1. Godly counsel gives us a different perspective.

When you ask someone for his or her counsel what do you hope to get and what do you hope not to get?

How does seeking the advice of others help you see things from a different perspective?

2. Godly counsel allows us to learn from the mistakes of others.

Read: The quote from The Tale of the Tardy Ox Cart by Chuck Swindoll

What are some of the mines in life that you hope to miss?

"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise." **Proverbs 12:15**

"By pride comes nothing but strife, but with the well-advised is wisdom." **Proverbs 13:10**

"The ear that hears the rebukes of life will abide among the wise. He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, but he who heeds rebuke gets understanding." **Proverbs 15:31**

"Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days." **Proverbs 19:20**

Ken's Thoughts on Filtering Godly Counsel

1. Godly counsel is consistent with Scripture.
2. Godly counsel should be filtered with solitude and prayer.
3. Consider fasting as a part of your filtering process.
4. If the counsel is far different than you expected, go and seek out two other Godly people.

5. Who is the best person for you to talk through these issues with?

"If you find that you need specific counsel, seek out a godly person who is an expert in that area or who has experience in the very circumstances in which you find yourself. Follow the suggestions that are based upon God's Word. None of us do well in walking through life alone. We need to be in close communication and association with other people who believe in Christ Jesus, are studying God's Word, and are seeking to follow Christ daily. We need to spend some time with people who have been through experiences that we are facing. We also need to spend time with people who have succeeded in an area of life in which we would also like to succeed. We need to talk things over with them, learn from them, and receive their wise counsel."
Walking Wisely: Charles Stanley, 103

3. Godly counsel helps reveal our true motives.

How can seeking Godly counsel reveal our true motives?

For Godly counsel to reveal your motives, which qualities must be present in the person from whom you are seeking advice?

FILTERING GODLY COUNSEL

What can you do to insure the "Godly Counsel" you are receiving is Godly?