

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | Fearing Deity & Defying Stupidity
January 21, 2024 | “The Better Way of Wisdom” | **Proverbs 8:1–36**

- 1) Wisdom is _____ (8:1–5)
- 2) Wisdom is _____ (8:6–11)
- 3) Wisdom is _____ (8:12–21)
- 4) Wisdom is _____ (8:22–31)
- 5) Wisdom is _____ (8:32–36)

Questions for further application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Proverbs 8:1–36. Compare and contrast Lady Wisdom’s words and actions with the adulteress woman in Proverbs 7. What are the benefits of heeding Lady Wisdom? What are the consequences of heeding the adulterous woman? What are the results of ignoring the adulteress woman versus ignoring Lady Wisdom?

Read through the five statements about wisdom above. In what ways is Lady Wisdom guileless? How is she ennobling and enriching to the person who heeds her counsel? What is the difference between ennobling and enabling?

Does Lady Wisdom discriminate against people of different backgrounds, socio-economic conditions, or education? Is Lady Wisdom a reluctant, reclusive teacher? How do we know from Proverbs 8? Is her wisdom accessible or restricted to the elite?

GET PERSONAL

Read Proverbs 8:13. Explain the link between “the fear of the Lord” and “hatred of evil” (8:13). Are there any ways that you have tolerated pride, arrogance, or perverted speech (i.e. gossip, slander, deceit, and coarse joking) this last week? If so, confess this to a friend and commit it to prayer.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Think through ways that you can practically respond to Lady Wisdom’s call in your life. Responding positively to Lady Wisdom’s call can be abstract because of the figurative nature of Proverbs 8. Make the figurative more practical and applicable. How do we receive and live out wisdom as Christians? How do we reject folly?

ADVANCED QUESTION #1

In light of NT revelation, why must our quest for wisdom begin at the cross? In Proverbs 8, wisdom has her entourage (i.e. discernment, understanding, prudence, righteousness). How do wisdom and her entourage compare to the fruit of the Holy Spirit in the NT (Gal 5:22–24)? How are they similar and how are they different?

ADVANCED QUESTION #2

Compare and contrast Proverbs 8 with NT passages that speak of Christ as the embodiment of wisdom (Matt 11:18–19; Col 1:15–17; Col 2:3; 1 Cor 1:30; 2 Cor 2:3). Use a technical commentary to look up the controversy surrounding Arius (AD 260–336) and his interpretation of Proverbs 8. What did Arius get wrong concerning the nature of Christ?