

## WISDOM or KNOWLEDGE – Where are You?

### LOVE YOUR WIFE!

**Summary:** The Man who is wise knows how to love his wife.

**Bible Verses:** Ecclesiastes 12:13; Ecclesiastes 8:16-9:10; Proverbs 4:3-9; Proverbs 12:15; James 1:19; Proverbs 15:1; James 5:16; Job 3:11

**Video Clips:** YouTube – “best scene from ‘Meet Joe Black’” and “Robertson McQuilkin's Resignation Speech”

Music: “She's Everything” performed by Brad Paisley

**Resources:** *The Best Question Ever* by Andy Stanley and *Ecclesiastes*

November 10, 2015

"Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?"  
—T.S. Eliot

Knowledge is gathered from learning and education, while most say that wisdom is gathered from day-to-day experiences and is a state of being wise. Knowledge is merely having clarity of facts and truths, while wisdom is the practical ability to make consistently good decisions in life. God desires that your life be a masterpiece that reflects His greatness and your uniqueness. But to create a masterpiece with your life, you must submit yourself to the hand of the Master. That moment of awareness and surrender is the beginning of true wisdom. You must allow God to influence each stroke on the canvas of your life. This series will lead you to a path of wisdom by considering the Book of Ecclesiastes, movie clips, story, and other resources.

### LIVE WITH A GRATEFUL HEART & LOVE YOUR WIFE! – Ecclesiastes 8:16-9:10

1. God is Lord! Wisdom is impossible without a clear recognition of \_\_\_\_\_. Solomon had set his heart on knowing how life works and concluded man cannot know what God is doing. Wisdom does not seek to explain the sovereignty of God (Eccl. 8:16-17).
2. \_\_\_\_\_, but Solomon does not seek to explain how God does it. Wisdom is revealed not by answering all the questions, but a heart attitude of thankfulness and trust (Eccl. 9:1-3).
3. You will never \_\_\_\_\_! Solomon knows human wisdom and autonomy is not the answer (Eccl. (9:4-6). Do not harden your heart!
4. \_\_\_\_\_—eat your bread, drink your wine, dress in white, and make love to your wife (Eccl. 9:7-10)! Life is relationship! Do not give in to sentiment, but by wisdom, love well!

### HOW TO LOVE YOUR WIFE! – Proverbs 4:3-9; 12:15

1. \_\_\_\_\_ = She wants you to be close. Be affectionate and attentive every day, not just on days you want sex. Understand her desire for INVOLVEMENT and your desire for INDEPENDENCE.
  - You hold her hand. • You hug her. • You are with her alone so you can focus on each other and laugh together. • You go for a walk or jog ... anything that results in togetherness. • You seek her out ... set up a date night ... eat by candlelight.
  - You go out of your way to do something for her, like run an errand. • You make it a priority to spend time with her. • You are aware of her as a person with a mind and opinions ... let her know you enjoy talking with her and getting her insights. • You suggest and plan the unexpected ... get takeout and eat on the beach ... park near the Reservoir and watch the sunset. • Talk to her when you would rather fall asleep.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ = She wants you to open up to her. As you are good-willed and open to your wife emotionally, she will feel close to you and open with you sexually—you must not be open to “get sex.” When you authentically meet her emotional needs, she'll be empathetic to your sexual needs.
  - You share your feelings, telling about your day and difficulties. • You say, “Let's talk,” ask her what she's feeling, and ask for her opinions. • You pray with her. • You discuss financial concerns, possible job changes, or ideas for your future.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ = Don't try to “Fix” her; just LISTEN. The most powerful weapons you have are your ears (James 1:19).
  - You listen and can repeat back what she said. • You try to identify her feelings. • You never dismiss her feelings. • You say often, “I appreciate your sharing that with me!” • You own your failures and admit you were wrong.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ = She wants you to say, “I'm was wrong!” Most men fear if they own their failures, they will lose respect. How to be a peacemaker:
  - Love Unconditionally = Be confident in the power of your love (Proverbs 15:1).
  - Ownership – Own Your Part = You will make peace when you don't blame her but, instead, confess your part of the blame (James 6:16).
5. \_\_\_\_\_ = She needs you to know you're committed. Your wife needs to know you are a “one-woman man” (Job 3:11). You never bring up the “D” word in a conflict. She is assured of your loyalty when ...
  - You speak highly of her in front of others. • You are involved in things important to her. • You help her make decisions, such as ones regarding the children. • You don't correct her in front of the children. • You don't look lustfully at other women.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ = She wants you to honor and cherish her. Let her know you really appreciate all she does.
  - You say often, “I'm so proud of the way you handled that.”
  - You open the door for her.
  - You give her encouragement with kindness and enthusiasm.
  - You are physically affectionate with her in public.
  - You teach the children to show her and others respect.

### ACTION: Journal This!

1. What do you love about your wife?
2. What's it like for your wife to be married to you?
3. How do you show love to your wife?

## Bible Verses

### Ecclesiastes 12:12-13

<sup>12-13</sup> But regarding anything beyond this, dear friend, go easy. There's no end to the publishing of books, and constant study wears you out so you're no good for anything else. The last and final word is this:  
Fear God. Do what he tells you.

### Ecclesiastes 8:16-9:10

<sup>16-17</sup> When I determined to load up on wisdom and examine everything taking place on earth, I realized that if you keep your eyes open day and night without even blinking, you'll still never figure out the meaning of what God is doing on this earth. Search as hard as you like, you're not going to make sense of it. No matter how smart you are, you won't get to the bottom of it.  
<sup>9 1-3</sup> Well, I took all this in and thought it through, inside and out. Here's what I understood: The good, the wise, and all that they do are in God's hands—but, day by day, whether it's love or hate they're dealing with, they don't know.  
Anything's possible. It's one fate for everybody—righteous and wicked, good people, bad people, the nice and the nasty, worshipers and non-worshipers, committed and uncommitted. I find this outrageous—the worst thing about living on this earth—that everyone's lumped together in one fate. Is it any wonder that so many people are obsessed with evil? Is it any wonder that people go crazy right and left? Life leads to death. That's it.  
<sup>4-6</sup> Still, anyone selected out for life has hope, for, as they say, “A living dog is better than a dead lion.” The living at least know *something*, even if it's only that they're going to die. But the dead know nothing and get nothing. They're a minus that no one remembers. Their loves, their hates, yes, even their dreams, are long gone. There's not a trace of them left in the affairs of this earth.  
<sup>7-10</sup> Seize life! Eat bread with gusto, drink wine with a robust heart. Oh yes—God takes pleasure in *your* pleasure! Dress festively every morning. Don't skimp on colors and scarves. Relish life with the spouse you love each and every day of your precarious life. Each day is God's gift. It's all you get in exchange for the hard work of staying alive. Make the most of each one! Whatever turns up, grab it and do it. And heartily! This is your last and only chance at it, for there's neither work to do nor thoughts to think in the company of the dead, where you're most certainly headed.

### Proverbs 4:3-9

<sup>3-9</sup> When I was a boy at my father's knee, the pride and joy of my mother, he would sit me down and drill me: “Take this to heart. Do what I tell you—live! Sell everything and buy Wisdom! Forage for understanding! Don't forget one word! Don't deviate an inch! Never walk away from Wisdom—she guards your life; love her—she keeps her eye on you. Above all and before all, do this: Get Wisdom! Write this at the top of your list: Get Understanding! Throw your arms around her—believe me, you won't regret it; never let her go—she'll make your life glorious. She'll garland your life with grace, she'll festoon your days with beauty.”

### Proverbs 12:15

<sup>15</sup> Fools are headstrong and do what they like; wise people take advice.

### James 1:19-21

<sup>19-21</sup> Post this at all the intersections, dear friends: Lead with your ears, follow up with your tongue, and let anger straggle along in the rear. God's righteousness doesn't grow from human anger. So throw all spoiled virtue and cancerous evil in the garbage. In simple humility, let our gardener, God, landscape you with the Word, making a salvation-garden of your life.

### Proverbs 15:1

<sup>1</sup> A gentle response defuses anger, but a sharp tongue kindles a temper-fire.

### James 5:16-18

<sup>16-18</sup> Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with. Elijah, for instance, human just like us, prayed hard that it wouldn't rain, and it didn't—not a drop for three and a half years. Then he prayed that it would rain, and it did. The showers came and everything started growing again.

### Job 3:11

<sup>11</sup> “Why didn't I die at birth, my first breath out of the womb my last?”

## SHE'S EVERYTHING

Written by Brad Paisley and Wil Nance and performed by Brad Paisley

She's a yellow pair of running shoes  
A holey pair of jeans  
She looks great in cheap sunglasses  
She looks great in anything  
She's I want a piece of chocolate  
Take me to a movie  
She's I can't find a thing to wear  
Now and then she's moody  
  
She's a Saturn with a sunroof  
With her brown hair a-blowing  
She's a soft place to land  
And a good feeling knowing  
She's a warm conversation  
That I wouldn't miss for nothing  
She's a fighter when she's mad  
And she's a lover when she's loving

[Chorus]  
And she's everything I ever wanted  
And everything I need  
I talk about her, I go on and on and on  
'Cause she's everything to me  
  
She's a Saturday out on the town  
And a church girl on Sunday  
She's a cross around her neck  
And a cuss word 'cause its Monday  
She's a bubble bath and candles  
Baby come and kiss me  
She's a one glass of wine  
And she's feeling kinda tipsy  
  
She's the giver I wish I could be  
And the stealer of the covers  
She's a picture in my wallet  
And my unborn children's mother  
She's the hand that I'm holding

When I'm on my knees and praying  
She's the answer to my prayer  
And she's the song that I'm playing

[Repeat chorus]

She's the voice I love to hear  
Someday when I'm ninety  
She's that wooden rocking chair  
I want rocking right beside me  
Everyday that passes  
I only love her more  
Yeah, she's the one  
That I'd lay down my own life for

[Repeat chorus]

Everything I ever wanted  
And everything I need  
She's everything to me

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***Ecclesiastes 8:16-9:10***

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2. **God controls all things**, but Solomon does not seek to explain how God does it. Wisdom is revealed not by answering all the questions, but a heart attitude of thankfulness and trust (Eccl. 9:1-3).
3. You will never **figure it out**! Solomon knows human wisdom and autonomy is not the answer (Eccl. (9:4-6). Do not harden your heart!
4. **Live your life with gratitude**—eat your bread, drink your wine, dress in white, and make love to your wife (Eccl. 9:7-10)! Life is relationship! Do not give in to sentiment, but by wisdom, love well!



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# HOW TO LOVE YOUR WIFE! – *Proverbs 4:3-9; 12:15.* (Continued)

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WISDOM

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