

# God's wisdom vs. human wisdom



## (Isaiah 55:8-9)

<sup>8</sup>The LORD says, “My thoughts are not like your thoughts. Your ways are not like my ways. <sup>9</sup>Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.



# There is a temptation to put our faith in human wisdom

- (Proverbs 3:5)  
<sup>5</sup>Trust the Lord with all your heart, and don't depend on your own understanding.
- (Proverbs 3:7)  
<sup>7</sup>Don't depend on your own wisdom. Respect the Lord and refuse to do wrong.

# There is a temptation to put our faith in human wisdom

- (1 Corinthians 1:17)  
<sup>17</sup>Christ did not send me to baptize people but to preach the Good News. And he sent me to preach the Good News without using words of **human wisdom** so that the cross of Christ would not **lose its power**.
- (1 Corinthians 2:4-5)  
<sup>4</sup>My teaching and preaching were not with words of **human wisdom** that persuade people but with proof of the power that the Spirit gives. <sup>5</sup>This was **so that your faith would be in God's power** and not in human wisdom.

# Worldly Wisdom



## Bad Fruit

- Jealousy
- Selfishness
- Confusion
- Every kind of evil

# Godly Wisdom



## Good Fruit

- Easy to please
- Always ready to help those who are troubled and do good to others
- Pure
- Peaceful
- Gentle
- Fair
- Honest

- (James 3:13-17)

<sup>13</sup>Are there those among you who are truly wise and understanding? Then they should show it by living right and doing good things with a gentleness that comes from wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you are selfish and have bitter jealousy in your hearts, do not brag. Your bragging is a lie that hides the truth. <sup>15</sup>That kind of “wisdom” does not come from God but from the world. It is not spiritual; it is **from the devil**. <sup>16</sup>Where jealousy and selfishness are, there will be confusion and every kind of evil.

- (Genesis 3:5-6)

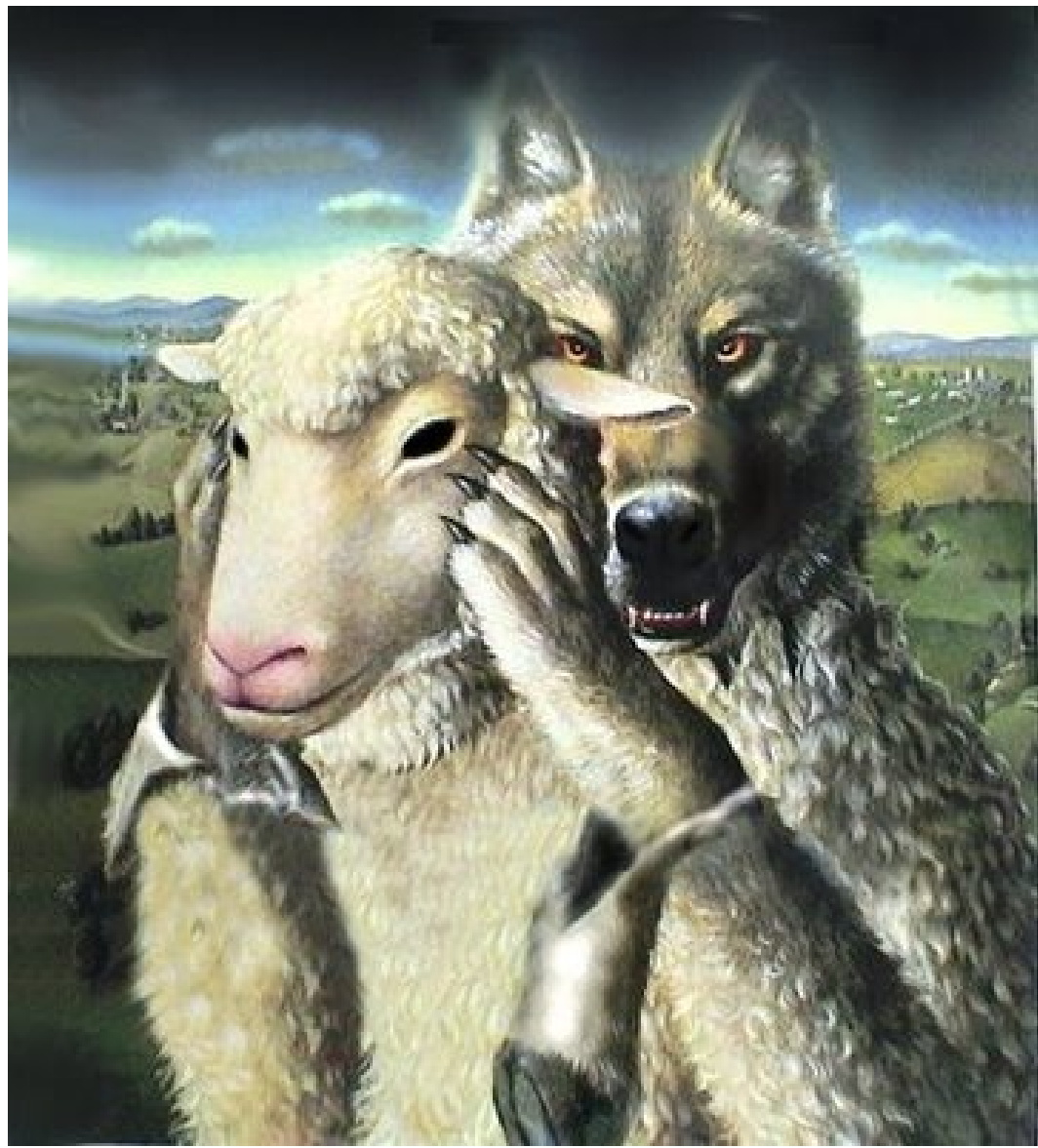
<sup>5</sup>God knows that if you eat the fruit from that tree, you will **learn** about good and evil and you will be like God!”  
<sup>6</sup>The woman saw that the tree was beautiful, that its fruit was good to eat, and that it would make her **wise**. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She also gave some of the fruit to her husband who was with her, and he ate it.

- (James 3:17)

<sup>17</sup>But the wisdom that comes from God is first of all pure, then peaceful, gentle, and easy to please. This wisdom is always ready to help those who are troubled and to do good for others. It is always fair and honest.

Even though Human wisdom is bad  
it can sometimes appear good!





- (2 Corinthians 11:14)

<sup>14</sup>This does not surprise us. Even Satan changes himself to look like an angel of light.

- (Colossians 2:20-23)

<sup>20</sup>Since you died with Christ and were made free from the ruling spirits of the world, why do you act as if you still belong to this world by following rules like these: <sup>21</sup>“Don’t handle this,” “Don’t taste that,” “Don’t even touch that thing”? <sup>22</sup>These rules refer to earthly things that are gone as soon as they are used. They are only human commands and teachings. <sup>23</sup>They **seem to be wise**, but they are only part of a **human religion**. ...

- They make people **pretend** not to be proud and make them punish their bodies, but **they do not really control the evil desires of the sinful self**.



- (Jeremiah 8:4-7)

<sup>4</sup>“Say to the people of Judah: ‘This is what the Lord says: When people fall down, don’t they get up again? And when someone goes the wrong way, doesn’t he turn back? <sup>5</sup>Why, then, have the people of Jerusalem gone the wrong way and not turned back? They believe their own lies and refuse to turn around and come back. <sup>6</sup>I have listened to them very carefully, but they do not say what is right. They do not feel sorry about their wicked ways, saying, “What have I done?” Each person goes his own way, like a horse charging into a battle. <sup>7</sup>Even the birds in the sky know the right times to do things. The storks, doves, swifts, and thrushes know when it is time to migrate. But **my people don’t know** what the Lord wants them to do. ...

- (Jeremiah 8:8-12)

<sup>8</sup>“ ‘You keep saying, “**We are wise, because we have the teachings of the Lord.**” But actually, those who explain the Scriptures have written lies with their pens. <sup>9</sup>These wise teachers refused to listen to the word of the Lord, so they are not really wise at all. They will be ashamed. They will be shocked and trapped. <sup>10</sup>So I will give their wives to other men and their fields to new owners. Everyone, from the least important to the greatest, is greedy for money. Even the prophets and priests all tell lies. <sup>11</sup>They tried to heal my people’s serious injuries as if they were small wounds. They said, “It’s all right, it’s all right.” But really, it is not all right. <sup>12</sup>They should be ashamed of the terrible way they act, but they are not ashamed at all. They don’t even know how to blush about their sins. So they will fall, along with everyone else. They will be thrown to the ground when I punish them, says the Lord.

- (Isaiah 29:13-16)

<sup>13</sup>The Lord says: “These people worship me with their mouths, and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their **worship is based on nothing but human rules.** <sup>14</sup>So I will continue to amaze these people by doing more and more miracles. Their wise men will lose their wisdom; their wise men will not be able to understand.”

- <sup>15</sup>How terrible it will be for those who try to hide things from the Lord and who do their work in darkness. They think no one will see them or know what they do. <sup>16</sup>You are confused. You think the clay is equal to the potter. You think that an object can tell the one who made it, “You didn’t make me.” **This is like a pot telling its maker, “You don’t know anything.”**

# Jesus is the wisdom and the power of God!

- (1 Corinthians 1:18)  
<sup>18</sup>The teaching about the cross is **foolishness** to those who are being lost, but to us who are being saved it is the **power of God**.
- (1 Corinthians 1:19-24)  
<sup>19</sup>It is written in the Scriptures: “I will cause the wise to lose their wisdom; I will make the wise unable to understand.”  
<sup>20</sup>Where is the wise person? Where is the educated person? Where is the skilled talker of this world? God has made the wisdom of the world foolish. <sup>21</sup>In the wisdom of God the world did not know God through its own wisdom. So **God chose** to use the **message that sounds foolish to save those who believe**.  
<sup>22</sup>The Jews ask for miracles, and the Greeks want wisdom. <sup>23</sup>But we preach a crucified Christ. This causes the Jews to stumble and is foolishness to non-Jews. <sup>24</sup>But Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God to those people God has called—Jews and Greeks.

- (Isaiah 55:10-11)

<sup>10</sup>Rain and snow fall from the sky and don't return without watering the ground. They cause the plants to sprout and grow, making seeds for the farmer and bread for the people. <sup>11</sup>The same thing is true of the words I speak. They will not return to me empty. They make the things happen that I want to happen, and they succeed in doing what I send them to do.

- (1 Corinthians 1:27-31)

<sup>27</sup>But God chose the **foolish** things of the world to shame the wise, and he chose the **weak** things of the world to shame the strong.

<sup>28</sup>He chose what the world thinks is unimportant and what the world looks down on and thinks is nothing in order to destroy what the world thinks is important. <sup>29</sup>**God did this so that no one can brag in his presence.** <sup>30</sup>Because of God you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God. In Christ we are put right with God, and have been made holy, and have been set free from sin. <sup>31</sup>So, as the Scripture says, “If people want to brag, they should brag only about the Lord.”

- **(Mark 16:16)**  
**<sup>16</sup>Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved, but anyone who does not believe will be punished.**

