



Seek Godly Counsel

January 18 & 19, 2017

How does God give advice...direction...counsel?

Personal & Small Group Activity

- Best advice you ever got? Who from? How did you go about it?
- Worst advice? Who? How?

Large Group Conversation

- "When there is no guidance the people fall, but in an abundance of counselors there is victory." Proverbs 11:14
- "He who separates himself seeks his own desire. He quarrels against all sound wisdom." Proverbs 18:1
- "A fool does not delight in understanding, but only in revealing his own mind." Pro. 18:2
- Two determinations in scripture: Godly & ungodly counsel

Read: Romans 12:4-6 / 1 Corinthians 4:15 / 1 Peter 5:1-6 (this weekend's NT reading) / James 1:5 / Exodus 18:13-26 (this weekend's OT reading) / 1 Kings 12:6-11 / Acts 5:33-40 / Matthew 19:16-22 / Matthew 4:18-22 (this weekend's Gospel reading)

A Process for Seeking Godly Counsel – WHO?

Surround yourself with people who are further along in the journey. There is no reason to learn every lesson yourself when you have perfectly good examples right in front of you. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we often counsel one another from what we've learned through our mistakes. Take advantage of this counsel and learn from the mistakes of others. You'll be very glad you don't have to go through every mistake as you learn from observing and listening to others. *Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.* Corinthians 11:1

Choose someone who is willing to speak the truth regardless of the pain or sorrow it may cause.

- When you find yourself in need of a person or persons to share your decision process with and receive direction based on God's word...
 - Pray for God's guidance in finding the right person. (Proverbs 1:5) - see with God's eyes- He sees the heart of men, not the outward trappings.
- Develop an awareness of those around you. (Proverbs 12:26) A mentor does not need to be endowed with superior spirituality, but rather the tests of life and time have taught them to confidently put their trust in God's sovereignty.
- Test your relationship with time- someone who has endured and yet remains faithful.
- Confirm with your mentor that they play this significant role in your life.

A Process for Seeking Godly Counsel – HOW?

- Be honest with yourself and deal with the situation truthfully
- Look for consensus- Sometimes it is best to hear from several godly people and assess the direction of the Lord by understanding where there is consensus and harmony. Act. 15:6 / Proverbs 11:14 (However, is the majority always right?)
- Evaluate the Counsel
 - We must examine the character, values, and motives of the person of whom we seek advice
 - Does the advice fit the character and nature of God as portrayed in His Word- Is it true and honest, just, pure, loving, of good report and brings glory to God. Phil. 4:8
- Allow time, consider the counsel and pray.
- Trust and Let God . . . From the scriptures, you can be assured that God will give you the wisdom you need when you lack it, but often times He uses other people to participate with you in this process. Ultimately our trust is not in people but in God who chooses to place people in our lives and gives us the freedom to decide. Romans 8:1

2 Final Questions:

1. What can we learn from the 4th Commandment about Godly counsel?
2. How does praying "Thy will be done" fit seeking godly counsel?



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