



The Maturity Question

WEEK SIX

Thinking “one more” more often results in having less of what we value most.

Unless we challenge our assumptions, we'll operate according to our assumptions.

How close to the line of sin can we get before we cross the line?

SERIES BIG IDEA:

When I follow God's will, I will have no regrets.

¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

It is God's will for me to be holy and pleasing to God by being a living sacrifice.

SERIES BIG PRAYER:

Father, I want your will more than I want my way. Show me your will for today.

Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Ephesians 5:17 (NIV)

¹ Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:1-2 (NIV)

It is God's will that I follow Jesus who loved me and gave Himself to God for me.

³ But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. ⁴ Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. ⁵ For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. ⁷ Therefore do not be partners with them.

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹² It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³ But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. ¹⁴ This is why it is said: “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Ephesians 5:3-17 (NIV)

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

It is God's will that I am wise by following Jesus' example to be pleasing in God's eyes.

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord.

Ephesians 5:8-10 (NIV)



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WEEK SIX

Follow God's example: Do what is good. Do what is right. Live in truth.

¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.
Ephesians 5:15-16 (NIV)

What is the wise thing for me to do?

- In light of my past experiences, what is the wise thing for me to do?
- In light of my current situation, what is the wise thing for me to do?
- In light of my future hopes and dreams, what is the wise thing for me to do?

Asking this question in light of following Jesus' example will bring convicting clarity as to what God's will is for me to do.



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TEACHING SUMMARY:

Wisdom is something we all need. Wisdom is something that we learn through time, experience, and often through our failures. But wisdom doesn't only come from us but is something that is given to us through Jesus.

James 1:5 says that "If anyone is lacking wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all."

Wisdom is something that has been given to us if we would but seek it out and receive it. If we ask, it will be given.

God gives us past experiences to teach us, present circumstances to propel us to Him, and hopes and dreams to keep us connected to Jesus. He gives us those things so that, as we seek Him, we will find wisdom.

True, lasting wisdom is found nowhere else than Jesus and when we seek Him and commit our past, present, and future to Him, we can and will receive wisdom and know what is good, right, and true.

When we receive wisdom, we can follow God's will, and then we will have no regrets.

TALK IT OVER:

Who is the wisest person you have ever met? What leads you to believe that about them?

What is an area of your life where unwise choices have hurt you or others in your life? Have you sought eternal wisdom in those areas?

Why do you think it is easier for us to seek earthly wisdom rather than eternal, Jesus-driven, wisdom?

What is one next step you can take today?

Who is someone you need to tell about this?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

Day 1) Romans 6:11-13

Day 2) Ephesians 4:1; 1 Corinthians 6:20

Day 3) 1 Peter 2:9-12

Day 4) Leviticus 19:2; 1 Peter 1:13-16

Day 5) Psalm 56:12-13 and 89:15; John 8:12

Day 6) John 1:1-9; 3: 20-21