

Summer Sermon Series 2010: *Living with Wisdom*

We live in an unprecedented time in human history, an era that has been labeled the age of information. There is more information available for the average person today than at any other time in human history. With continual research and advancements, especially in science and technology, every 12 -18 months the entire body of knowledge in our world doubles. Even more astonishing, the internet makes accessing this information relatively easy. It is no wonder that social commentators refer to our era as a time of information explosion and overload. The simply reality is that most of us access more information in one week than the average person who lived before 1900 accessed in their entire lifetime. Most of us have more information available to us than we know what to do with.

Therefore it would be reasonable to assume that given the access to information and knowledge that is easily available our quality of life would be drastically improved. One would think that divorce rates would drop, obesity would be non-existent, personal bankruptcies would be unheard of, parenting would be easy and addictions would be eradicated. After all, we have accurate, up to date and immediate access to the best information available and therefore simply applying that information to our lives would lead to improvements in every area. We should be living in utopia; our lives should be problem free-right?

The reality however is readily apparent: We are more messed up than ever before. Obesity rates are climbing, marriages are dissolving, personal bankruptcies are a growth industry, family issues are more challenging than ever before and depression is pandemic. Most of us have enough information to know what is wrong, but seemingly don't have the ability to anything about it.

It doesn't have to be that way and it definitely is not what God intended for his children. In fact, he specifically tells us to not fall into that trap. Ephesians 5: 15 put it this way:

***Be very careful, then how you live, not as unwise but as wise;***

As followers of Christ, we are called to be wise and to live as wise people. Wisdom is the key for making our way through life. Wisdom is not information per se, but knowledge that is applied toward the purposes of God for our lives. This is the key that is missing in this era of information. We don't need more knowledge; most of us definitely do not need more information; we need to apply the knowledge we already have to our lives and act on it. That process is called wisdom. This summer, we are going to explore what it means to live with wisdom. How do we get wisdom? Where do we find it? What does it really look like? What does it mean to live with wisdom in our marriages? Families? Finances? Words? Work? We will take the first five weeks to talk about how we get wisdom and then we will spend the rest of the summer looking at applying wisdom to our lives.

The results of this study are really up to you. This could become one more exercise in information. You could gather lots of data and even grow in your knowledge of what wisdom is. But that is all it will be; more information to add to your daily intake. Or you could grow in wisdom and apply the truths you will learn to your life. If you choose wisdom, you will avoid many dangers and your life will change as you apply God's truth to your life. Which will you choose?