

**USING WISDOM WISELY**  
Ecclesiastes 8:1-17

Oakridge Community Church  
Questions for Consideration and Discussion

Introduction:

1. James 1:5
2. Proverbs 3:7, 13-14
3. Wisdom before the king – Ecclesiastes 8:1-9, cf. Romans 13:1

**Using Wisdom Wisely**  
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- I. **THERE IS MUCH EVEN WISE PEOPLE DON'T KNOW** 8:7
- A. No one knows what the future holds – cf. James 4:13-15
  - B. No one knows for certain when the future will happen
- II. **THERE IS MUCH THAT WISE PEOPLE CANNOT CONTROL** 8:8
- A. No one can control the wind
  - B. No one has authority over the day of death
  - C. No one gets discharged in the heat of battle
- III. **THERE IS MUCH THAT WISE PEOPLE CANNOT UNDERSTAND**
- A. Specific example: wicked hypocrites treated as righteous – 8:10
  - B. Terrible result: proliferation of evil - 8:11
  - C. Present reality: things are skewed – 8:14
  - D. Bottom line: there are things we cannot understand – 8:16-17

Conclusion

1. Trustingly fear God – 8:12-13, cf. Romans 8:28-30
2. Be joyful! – 8:15, cf. 1 Timothy 6:17, Romans 12:12

1. What value do you place on godly wisdom in your own life? How is the value you place on godly wisdom demonstrated by your thoughts, words and actions? How do you go about pursuing godly wisdom?
2. How does godly wisdom guide us in responding to authorities who are acting oppressively and wickedly? In what situations of this kind have you needed or exercised such wisdom? What challenges did you face in doing so?
3. How does the fact that you cannot know everything affect you? What about the fact that you cannot control everything? Understand everything?
4. Why do we struggle to understand the reality of injustice and evil in the present world? What is the greatest injustice ever seen in this world? How did God use the greatest injustice to accomplish the greatest good for people? How should this lead us to trustingly fear Him?
5. How does trustingly fearing God enable us to enjoy what He has given us in the midst of this fallen world? What would not enjoying His good gifts reveal about our attitude toward God as the perfect Giver?