

Are You Biblically Wise?

The following questions are meant to give you a general diagnosis in regard to Biblical wisdom. You must be honest, even if it is painful. An answer that does not reflect the truth about you may give you a higher score and cause you to feel better about yourself but it will not ultimately challenge you to be more wise and adept in your use of the scriptures. If you do not know the answer to a question the answer is probably, “no.” If you are not satisfied with “no,” ask your spouse.

Please answer the following questions “yes” or “no.”

1. I nurture my relationship with God by spending time in His Word.
This means daily time in the Bible. Give yourself ½ a yes if you spend 3 to 4 days a week in His Word.
2. I spend time memorizing key scriptures.
This means that you can right now recite out loud 5 passages that you have committed to memory.
3. I allow the scriptures to shape my life.
This means that you align your life with the Bible and not the other way around. The result is that your character, attitudes, habits, and behavior are in harmony with the scriptures.
4. I know how to apply the scriptures to the issues of everyday life.
This means you are able to apply Biblical principles to issues because you have invested the required time in the scriptures which, in turn, has enabled you to extract and use them.
5. I use the scriptures to encourage people spiritually.
This means that you listen to people and the Spirit gives you a biblical word/verse that relates to their situation/concern.
6. I do not use the Bible to get my own way.
This means you value relationships more than being right. Winning the battle and losing the war is not wise. If you weakened a relationship in the last 6 months because of a “discussion” about biblical things you must answer “no” for this question. Have you repaired that relationship?
7. I have a plan to read the whole Bible through each year.
This means that you actually follow through on your plan or at least you have read large portions of the Bible even if you do not finish. Think about last year. Did you finish the Bible? If so you can answer “yes.” Give yourself ½ a “yes” if you read the entire NT and portions of the OT. Anything less requires a “no.”
8. I read the Bible for personal growth in addition to what I do in preparing to

teach/preach.

This means you open the Bible for the joy of meeting with God and not just to get a message ready.

9. I know, Biblically speaking, the difference between the non-negotiable and negotiable issues.

This means that you do not spend too much time debating/preaching/teaching the merits of a position that cannot be unequivocally supported by the scriptures. Godly men have different views on issues such as the end-times, who should take the Lord's Supper, or whether your church should have "Baptist" in its name. Biblical wisdom knows how to navigate through such issues in such a way that the church has peace and continues to fulfill its mission.

10. I know how direct people to the scriptures that show how one may have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

This means that you know the "salvation scriptures" and how to weave them into a conversation with an unbeliever in order to present that one with the opportunity to trust Christ. This action demonstrates reliance upon the divine Word as the power of God unto salvation rather than a trust in one's own ability to use the human word to move people toward Christ. This too, is Biblical wisdom.

Scoring

If you scored "yes" 7 or more times it would seem that you have achieved a good degree of health in this area. Continue to practice the things that brought you this health. If you scored "yes" 5 times or less you definitely need to give attention to this area of your life. A score of 5 or less will make it difficult to spiritually lead others without encountering difficulty and in fact you may even sabotage your own leadership with such a lack. If you need some assistance or would like to discuss this aspect of spiritual health with someone please do not hesitate to contact any member of the CCSB Church Strengthening Team: Bob Shelton at rshelton@ccsb.ca or Hamish Buntain at hbuntain@ccsb.ca