

# The Importance of Reasoning Well

## Why Reasoning Well is Important

- We are to love God with our minds (Mark 12:28-30)
- Reasoning well helps with getting wisdom
  - Wisdom is important (Proverbs 4:5-9)
  - Learning to reason well makes it easier to grow in wisdom
- Heavenly wisdom is open to reason (James 3:17)
- Reasoning well is part of humility
- Reasoning well helps you to know the Bible better (2 Timothy 2:7)

## How to Reason Well

### 1. Learn from people who do well at reasoning

- Having good examples helps and is something we need (Hebrews 13:7)
- Learning from others is something we should do (Proverbs 9:9)

### 2. Listen to sides you don't agree with

- If you're not willing to listen to sides you don't agree with, then you're not open to reason like James tells us, and you're also not being quick to listen (James 1:19)
- The book of proverbs talks a lot about listening to rebuke, but inherent in the idea that you should learn to listen to rebuke, is the idea that you should learn to listen to views that you don't agree with. The majority of times that anybody is rebuked, it's something they don't agree with. This is such a major concept in the Proverbs.
  - Proverbs 13:1, 12:1, 15:32, 19:20
- Also, I would really encourage you to take up the attitude that even if someone is wrong about something, they might not be completely wrong, and you might be able to learn from them anyways

### 3. Question your own assumptions

- Proverbs says don't be wise in your own eyes (Proverbs 26:3-12)
  - Being wise in your own eyes doesn't mean thinking that you're intelligent or acknowledging that you have wisdom, it means thinking you don't need to listen to God nor others (1 Cor. 3:10; Prov. 12:15)
  - A person who makes degrading comments about their own intelligence but insists that what they believe must be right without being willing to fairly examine it, is wise in their own eyes.
- The example of the Pharisees
  - The pharisees refused to question their own assumptions, and it was a major part of their downfall.
  - And you might think, "well, that's different; the pharisees were obviously wrong, and I'm not, so I don't have to question my own assumptions" but that's literally the attitude they had

#### 4. Hold your preferences in check

- The human heart is often and easily tempted to just believe whatever it would prefer to be true, without giving it a fair check to see if it really is true
- We all get tempted by this, and we need to hold it in check (Jeremiah 17:9)
  - The human heart, because of sin, naturally leans towards believing what's easy or convenient or whatever feels good to believe, whether it's true or not
- 2 Timothy 4:3
  - We all face this temptation
  - We all get tempted to want to have our ears tickled
  - Don't just accept the answer you want to hear just because you want to hear it
  - Make sure you are fairly examining ideas that you don't want to be true, and that you're giving them a fair chance when you question them

#### 5. Don't just believe what you hear

- Proverbs 14:15
- Acts 17:10-11
  - Even though the gospel is true, they wanted to check the Scriptures first to make sure before they believe it, and Scripture speaks highly of them for that.

#### 6. Take the time to think things through

- Gaining understanding requires taking the time to think about things (2 Timothy 2:7)
- Wisdom is stored up. It is added to little by little by little by little. It's built up over time through consistency (Proverbs 10:14)
  - And one thing we can do in order to help us store up knowledge is to take time to think about things.

#### Conclusion

- It's important that we learn to reason well
  - It's part of having biblical wisdom
  - It will help you to get to know the Bible better