

THE MIND OF THE SPIRIT

1 Corinthians 2:6 – 3:4
WEFC February 28, 2010

Following God is no simple matter. It is about as easy to follow God as it is for us to jump over the moon.

We at times get the wrong idea of what it is to have our spiritual driver's license ... We miss-use and misunderstand it ... to our detriment.

A DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) officer stopped at a ranch in Texas and talked with an old rancher. He told the rancher, "I need to inspect your ranch for illegally grown drugs." The rancher said, "Okay , but do not go in that field over there," as he pointed out the location.

The DEA officer verbally exploded saying, " Mister, I have the authority of the Federal Government with me." Reaching into his rear pants pocket, he removed his badge and proudly displayed it to the rancher. "See this badge? This badge means I am allowed to go wherever I wish.... On any land. No questions asked or answers given. Have I made myself clear? Do you understand? "

The rancher nodded politely, apologized, and went off to do his chores.

A short time later, the old rancher heard loud screams and saw the DEA officer running for his life chased by the rancher's big Santa Gertrudis bull.....

With every step the bull was gaining ground on the officer, and it seemed likely that he'd get gored before he reached safety. The officer was clearly terrified. The rancher threw down his tools, ran to the fence and yelled at the top of his lungs.....

“ ... **your badge. Show him your BADGE!**”

The people at Corinth bragged about their badge, but not wisely,

God stretches us ... It is one thing to carry our spiritual driver's license, it is another to act responsibly with it; to live out being “sanctified”.

Our problem is wondering how will we ever get this to be a part of our lives?

... and that is where **1 Corinthians 2:6 – 3:4** clears up some of our questions.

The reason this does not come easily to us is because we have been too effectively instructed at the wrong school with the wrong material in the wrong perspective.

... now isn't that an optimistic statement from which to start things off on a fine morning like this.

Recall what we said last time? Where in our elementary education ... high school ... university ... or at our place of employment did we learn that we ...

... win by losing?

... live by dying?

... become first by being last?

... receive the most by giving all they have?

... get to the top by living at the bottom?

... conquer by surrender?

... only at Sunday School and Church ... and since we spent only some 3 or 4 hours a week studying Church stuff, while we spent most of our time picking up our education in the neighborhood, it is no surprise as to what has stuck most with us.

It is one tough assignment to get the truth of what is stated in God's Word to stick with us.

Yet we have been promised God's help - our prime teacher, our personal instructor is none other than the Holy Spirit.

Now, don't roll your eyes and say, "Again, I've heard this ... and it doesn't work." It does ... we may not have gotten it right before.

The Holy Spirit does teach us. He does instruct us. But He has not taken any of our university education classes and therefore often uses methods and material with which we are not always familiar.

But we do have to admit that He is one phenomenal teacher.

Key Thought:

"Spirit-wisdom" is not fluff, religion's attempt at sounding intelligent.

It is clearly measured and observed not in diplomas, documents, or dissertations, but through behavior consistent with our official document "sanctified in Christ Jesus".

If we get it right ...

If we are "educated" in God's "system" ...

If we are smart, "God-smart" ...

If we connect with the intelligent Spirit of God ...

If we are mature, spiritually mature ...

It will be more than obvious.

It will be easy noticed.

1. "Spirit – wisdom" ... is distinctly different from "popular wisdom" 2:6 – 10a

What we have written down for us is almost a list of contrasts.

We are not to muddle-up the differences between "Spirit-wisdom" and "popular wisdom".

1.1 "Limited offer"(accessible to all believers, but only Believers)

6 We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

The "**mature**" identifies ALL believers; not some elite squadron of Christians who stand head and shoulders above other Christians.

What Christ-followers believe is smart; true; fits with reality and makes sense.

But there is an important distinction to keep in mind.

Those who do not believe in Jesus Christ do not agree with the believer's wisdom. They would not classify Jesus as wisdom.

The people of influence in society, those that are listed in "Who's Who", those who are quoted ... do not believe in Jesus Christ being the total package when it comes to wisdom.

What Jesus stands for does not fit with most systems of thought operating today, either in education, science so called, business, ethics, politics or even current day religion.

Though not accepted by the mainstream, the wisdom of God exists for ALL BELIEVERS.

It is limited to all believer, but only to believers.

Spirit wisdom is ...

1.2 Accepts facts from an explaining God (It does not figured things out for itself)

... we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began.

In our day, we are not told what to believe. That apparently is “shoving things down a person’s throat”. We are, instead, supposedly being taught to use our minds to figure out the truth.

John J. Mearsheimer is the R. Wendell Harrison Distinguished Service Professor of Political Science and the co-director of the Program on International Security Policy at the University of Chicago, where he has taught since 1982.

His credentials would indicate that he is having a distinguished academic career.

In 2001 he gave a speech to the start class of 2001, new students at the University of Chicago. Here are some of selected lines.

Providing Truth

There is a powerful bias at the University of Chicago against providing you with the truth about the important issues we study. Instead, we aim to produce independent thinkers who can reach their own conclusions. To put the matter in slightly different terms, we expect you to figure out the truth, if there is one.

... In short, I am saying that there is a powerful norm at this institution to not tell you what to think about important issues, but instead to let you reach your own conclusions. Our forte is teaching you how to think, not what to think.

Teaching Morality

Not only is there a powerful imperative at Chicago to stay away from teaching the truth, but the University also makes little effort to provide you with moral guidance. Indeed, it is a remarkably amoral institution.

... There is no question that the University of Chicago makes hardly any effort to provide you with moral guidance. Moreover, I would bet that you will take few classes here at Chicago where you discuss ethics or morality in any detail, mainly because those kind of courses do not exist.

(End of article)

Here is one of society’s sharp cookies.

He teaches young people, and people are paying to hear this kind of ridiculous stuff and are being told that this is the wise approach to life.

God does not tell us that out there is a truthless jungle ... go out and find truth, if it exists. ... or make your own truth.

God gives, ... He explains truth. He puts it before us so that we do not miss it, because we could never figure it out ourselves.

We do not discover truth – moral truth. We either accept it or reject it.

In this passage “wisdom” is primarily a reference to the cross of Jesus Christ.

Long before we made our personal appearance, God had laid out a plan ... for our good.

He knew that what He was going to do, and even though it would cause us to scratch our heads and wonder if He really knew what He was doing, God did it.

He knew that when we finally would get what He did, we would see it in a totally different way.

God’s secret wisdom is THE CROSS OF JESUS CHRIST.

This act of Jesus didn’t and doesn’t make sense to people unless you see it through God’s eyes.

When we were being held hostage by sin, when we had lost all, when we could do nothing to get ourselves back on track ... God stepped in.

With wisdom, God-wisdom, Spirit-wisdom, our deadly problem was solved perfectly by Jesus’ death and resurrection.

Jesus’ death would take care of all of God’s concerns of accepting imperfect people into His perfect company on a permanent basis.

For people who want to make up their own minds, this seems to be a tad simplistic.

- accept or reject
- yes or no
- believe or deny
- follow or wander

“I need to think through this process and see whether it suits me, whether I think it will work for me, whether I think it will actually pay for my sin.”

God says, “Would you quit using your personal approach to life as the grid, the evaluator for what works and what doesn’t.

Stop seeing things through your own eyes.

See it through Jesus’ eyes.

If our leading intellectuals had personally concluded that Jesus was God ... things would have turned out very differently.

8 None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Brilliance does not lead to a good life. Diplomas do not guarantee clean behavior.

William French Anderson has often been referred to as "the father of gene therapy" because of his work on a controversial medical treatment.

In 1990, Anderson claimed to be the first person to treat a patient successfully with the treatment, which involved injecting sick patients with healthy genes from donors. In 1995, Time Magazine named him as a runner-up for their annual "Man of the Year" issue. The following year, his claims were found to have been exaggerated.

In July of 2006, this world-famous geneticist William French Anderson was convicted of child molestation charges. He was sentenced to serve 14 years in prison for molesting the daughter of one of his employees.

Many people, including a Nobel Prize winner and other notable scientists, wrote letters to the court in support of Anderson, who has a genius level IQ of 176.

He was convicted.

However, Judge Michael Pastor said that Anderson's actions resulted in "incalculable" emotional devastation to a girl whom he described as being an insecure and trusting immigrant. "Because of intellectual arrogance, he persisted and he got away with as much as he could," the judge said.

In a press conference, his attorney made an insightful comment. "Nothing about having a 176 I.Q. means you have good judgment."

Having brains does not mean that a person is wise; that they are able to put life together.

9However, as it is written:

**"No eye has seen,
no ear has heard,
no mind has conceived
what God has prepared for those who love him"—
10but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.**

Understand these words as a reference to the cross of Christ, not as some ticket to dream wildly about what God might give us.

What did we see in the cross?

Our **eyes** saw ... a person dying ... a plain, ordinary Person; certainly, no one saw the Son of God taking away all of our sins on the cross.

Our **ears** heard Jesus' words, but they didn't make much sense.

He mumbled something about forgiving, His mother, being thirsty and about it being finished.

Did we hear God speaking? ... or just a man being overcome by pain, babbling madly as his life was quickly expiring?

*When we stared at the cross our **minds** never figured out that what was taking place was the greatest transaction, the most significant deal, the most far-reaching act in all of history - God paying the full price, the painful price for our sin.*

We didn't look at the cross and say, "Oh, this is love pouring down and flooding the entire world."

We thought – tragic.

AND THEN ONE DAY ... THE SPIRIT OF GOD ... helped us to see things not through our own eyes, but Jesus'.

... and then it became clear.

Jesus is God ... the only Savior ... and this act at the cross was the best of the best.

Only when the Holy Spirit “explained” that to us ... did we get it.

“Spirit – wisdom” ... is distinctly different from “popular wisdom”.

ALL of God’s people have it.

ALL WHO HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED CHRIST do NOT have it.

Transition:

If it is so important to have “Spirit-wisdom” then how does the Spirit work? ... how do we learn from the “Holy Spirit”?

2. “Spirit-wisdom” connects all of life to “what God has freely given us”. 2:10b-16

If you look at the latter half of **2:12** we read –

that we may understand what God has freely given us.

Life has been put together from one direction alone.

It only makes sense on only one road.

There is only one approach that works.

... and it takes the Spirit of God to get us to ... **understand what God has freely given us.**

The truth of Jesus dying and rising for us is a highly condensed and packaged reality.

In that event is stuffed so many good things that it takes a lifetime to understand and use all its richness.

2.1 This is not just “church-stuff” but “ALL OF LIFE stuff”

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

The Holy Spirit is the authentic revealer, the One with the inside information on God.

He knows ... God’s thoughts. He does not need to guess at them..

All things are known by the Holy Spirit.

If the Spirit of God searches **all things** (and He does), then pick up on how that affects every believer in **2:15**

The spiritual man makes judgments about all things

“The spiritual man ...” is again any and every person who has genuinely accepted Jesus Christ - all who have their legitimate spiritual driver’s license... not a special class of Christian.

The Spirit searches **all things**; the believer makes judgments about **all things**.

Absolutely everything in our life is to be shaped by the work of Jesus on the Cross.

“ ... all things ...”

This is a comprehensive work

2.2 “Spirit-wisdom” is to permeate our entire perspective

15 The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment:

It is important to know that God fits in with mathematics, medicine, sexuality, business ethics, family life ...

Believers are never again to understand life with God out of the picture.

All things are affected by the cross of Christ.

Every decision or action we take is to be decided by the cross of Christ.

No longer do we make society’s voice the leading voice in our lives.

For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?”

It is sheer ridiculousness to take God on with your own brains?

But we have the mind of Christ.

We don’t need to figure out truth. God has given that to us. **We have the mind of Christ.**

Again ... all believers ...

- have God’s wisdom
- not just the elite
- all believers should see things very differently from society
- should not act like society

Transition

Why is it so important to hear again and again that all believers have God’s wisdom?

This whole discussion on Spirit wisdom and the cross of Christ was brought up not to solve a theological discussion, but a relational problem.

Return to the beginning of this section.

1 Corinthians 1:10-11

I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters Let there be no divisions in the church. ... For some members of Chloe's household have told me about your quarrels, my dear brothers and sisters.

So what do we do when we have arguments with one another?

... bring into your mind's sight lines, the cross?

Let's get real. What does the cross of Christ have to do with an argument? ... not getting along with one another?

In most of our minds the last thing we want is theology – God-talk when we are in an argument.

To our way of thinking, that isn't practical.

We would prefer that someone tell us specific steps that will stop our quarrelling.

Paul's answer is this ... when you have disagreements ... DO NOT ...

... run to find out new techniques of communication?

... make it your aim to earn how to better listen to one another?

... do not re-run the problem over and over and analyze it to death

... do not just count to ten to cool down.

That's society's way of handling problems ... AND IT DOES NOT WORK.

Key Thought:

“Spirit-wisdom” is not fluff, religion's attempt at sounding intelligent.

It is clearly measured and observed, not in diplomas, documents, or dissertations, but through behavior consistent with our official document “sanctified in Christ Jesus”.

How then should we handle disagreements?

May it be gently said: **Grow up ... mature.**

3. “Spirit wisdom” is maturity that is measured not in words but in behavior

“Spiritually wise” people are not those who give correct Bible answers to problems, but those who live out God's “cross-like” obedience, and thereby put up with what no “normal” person would put up with and see things as no “normal” person would.

This stuff cannot be taught as a technique.

This stuff is deeper than technique.

Technique says master the steps.

This stuff says let someone master your heart.

Technique says get better listening skills.

This stuff says discover better behavior skills.

Here is how we need to deal with disagreement between ourselves.

1 Cor. 3:1

Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ.

Problems were not getting straightened out because ...

3.1 Believers were reacting to problems just as unsaved people would react

A police officer pulled a driver aside and asked for his license and registration. "What's wrong, officer," the driver asked. "I didn't go through any red lights, and I certainly wasn't speeding."

"No, you weren't," said the officer, "but I saw you waving your fist as you swerved around the lady driving in the left lane, and I further observed your flushed and angry face as you shouted at the driver of the Hummer who cut you off, and how you pounded your steering wheel when the traffic came to a stop near the bridge."

"Is that a crime, officer?"

"No, but when I saw the 'Jesus loves you and so do I' bumper sticker on the car, I figured this car had to be stolen."

Adapted from Homiletics magazine (May 2004); submitted by Gino Grunberg, Gig Harbor, Washington

They were working through things as if Jesus had not come and died for their sin.

1 Cor. 3:2

I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly.

3.2 Maturity is not a "head matter", but a "cross matter"

What their "spiritual driver's license" said and how they were acting was not fitting together.

Telling people that we have our spiritual driver's license is good, but it needs to be backed up by good driving.

Telling people we are God's needs to be backed by living Jesus' way.

1 Cor. 3:3

For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?

3.3 Spiritual behavior is measureable ... easily observable. It is hard to hide what is truly going on.

Spirit wisdom is not some secret formula and high-brow knowledge.

It is as plain as the nose on our face.

WRAP UP

Why is the cross of Christ so important?

We want to fit in with everyone else.

God says, “I have made you different. You are sanctified in Christ Jesus – the official document material ... and you have been called to be holy ... that is, live out what the license states.

This is where the Corinthians had missed it.

They were “sanctified” – they had their official document, but they were not living out what went with the license, its obligations and they were over-drawing on its privileges ...

They wanted to off-road, act as if they never had been given a driver’s license, have accidents, hit-and-runs, lapses ... and the list goes on ... and not be biblically responsible for their behavior.

They were acting like people who never had meet Jesus at the cross.

They didn’t need another spiritual driving training course; they didn’t need to memorize the Book better; ... what they had to do was do what there spiritual driver’s license said ...

... easier said than done.

So how do we live out Spirit wisdom?

... don’t groan ...

THE CROSS

... the cross, not in our heads, but grabbing our entire heart.

The problem is not that we don’t know what to do.

We know we shouldn’t be ...

- angry
- jealous
- lie
- cheat
- lose our temper

... and the list goes on.

We don’t need to be told these things. We’ve got that in our brains ... but we need it someplace else.

An IQ of 176 does not guarantee that we will behave wisely.

In a disagreement what do we see?

... a person who can’t figure things out? ... a stubborn person? ...

The Spirit of God does not want us to “count to ten”; nor to say, “now let me tell you what I think I heard you say” ...

... because we can do all that and our hearts can still be seething inside ... boiling with frustration and anger.

God says, “See everything as if it has blood, Jesus’ blood on it. Everything you handle.

See ...

... our life covered with Christ's blood; ... being rescued by His death.

... every conversation as blood dripping from the words, from the intonation, from your facial expression

... our words as different ... holy words.

... our hands as hands washed and cleansed by His blood to do good things that reflect well on Christ's reputation.

... our feet as walking into places with the cleanness of Jesus.

... our eyes as seeing only things that a person washed by holy blood would look at.

See everything through Jesus' eyes ... through the cross.

... see a Father who so loves His Son and a Son who so loves His Father ... both perfect ... but both of them decide to go to their enemies (those who are by nature of a lower class and definitely inferior in behavior to them).

These enemies were the ones who messed up Their property, Their goodness – and to these this Father and Son team present the cross with the Son dying on it.

Does it make sense ... not at all ... unless you see things through Jesus' eyes.

This kind of behavior is not taught at school, in our universities, and at times not even in our churches.

If we don't get it ... God the Holy Spirit comes to us, the third Team Member ... and opens in us His Center for Godly Wisdom, but here there is no classroom, but instead He is our instructor who walks with us daily to get the cross beyond our brain and into our heart.

This is on-the-job learning.

Because of the Cross, because of Holy Spirit wisdom, we come to realize that we can ...

- give up our lives and still yet live
- give up our agenda and still accomplish all that needs to be done
- give up our preferences and yet be fully satisfied
- give up tastes and yet find the sweetness of life
- give up our dreams and yet reach the top of the mountain
- give away our money and yet possess all that we need

In closing ...

- **we are different because of the cross**
- **to go back to handling life as everyone else does is to attempt at a new life with an old mind ... it does not work**
- **the cross does make a real difference, but only if you can see it in everything**

The *Atlantic Monthly* (11/94) told about superstar tenors Jose Carreras, Placido Domingo, and Luciano Pavarotti performing together in Los Angeles. A reporter tried to press the issue of competitiveness between the three men.

"You have to put all of your concentration into opening your heart to the music," Domingo said. "You can't be rivals when you're together making music."

Only by being smothered in the richness of God's grace, does the cross of Christ move from being a textbook fact to being a life-changing reality.

At the cross we see that what we never thought possible in behavior, is now possible.

Jesus behaved this way ALL THE TIME, and He gave us His Spirit so that we might learn the same ... to follow God with our whole heart.

Greg Zanis is a carpenter from Aurora, Illinois, whose father-in-law taught him the trade. In the process the two became best friends. In 1996 Greg's father-in-law was the victim of a violent crime and died.

In an attempt to express his deep grief and personal sense of loss, Greg built an eight-foot wooden cross and planted it at the scene of the crime. ... that was the beginning.

Greg began building eight-foot wooden crosses and erecting them at the scenes of fatal crimes or accidents. He constructed the crosses standing in honor of the victims at Columbine High School.

What began as a personal response to the loss of human life has become a ministry to help people heal and to remind them that Jesus gives peace and grace. His ministry is called "Crosses for Losses." Zanis builds crosses for families of victims of violent crimes from across the country and then personally delivers the crosses in his pickup truck. To date he has planted hundreds of eight-foot-high crosses.

Southern Baptist Convention.net and Dr. Douglas B. Skinner, Northway Christian Church, Dallas, Texas; submitted by Greg Asimakoupoulos, Naperville, Illinois

John J. Mearsheimer is the R. Wendell Harrison Distinguished Service Professor of Political Science and the co-director of the Program on International Security Policy at the University of Chicago, where he has taught since 1982.

He graduated from West Point in 1970 and then served five years as an officer in the U.S. Air Force. He then started graduate school in political science at Cornell University in 1975. He received his Ph.D. in 1980. He spent the 1979-1980 academic year as a research fellow at the Brookings Institution, and was a post-doctoral fellow at Harvard University's Center for International Affairs from 1980 to 1982. During the 1998-1999 academic year, he was the Whitney H. Shepardson Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York. Professor Mearsheimer has written extensively about security issues and international politics more generally. He has published four books: *Conventional Deterrence* (1983), which won the Edgar S. Furniss, Jr., Book Award; *Liddell Hart and the Weight of History* (1988); *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (2001), which won the Joseph Lepgold Book Prize; and *The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy* (with Stephen M. Walt, 2007), which made the New York Times best seller list and has been translated into seventeen different languages. He has also written many articles that have appeared in academic journals like *International Security*, and popular magazines like the *London Review of Books*. Furthermore he has written a

number of op-ed pieces for the New York Times and the Los Angeles Times dealing with topics like Bosnia, nuclear proliferation, American policy towards India, the failure of Arab-Israeli peace efforts, and the folly of invading Iraq. Finally, Professor Mearsheimer has won a number of teaching awards. He received the Clark Award for Distinguished Teaching when he was a graduate student at Cornell in 1977, and he won the Quantrell Award for Distinguished Teaching at the University of Chicago in 1985. In addition, he was selected as a Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar for the 1993-1994 academic year. In that capacity, he gave a series of talks at eight colleges and universities. In 2003, he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

John J. Mearsheimer, "Aims of Education" Address to Class of 2001, University of Chicago, September 21, 1997.

Subsequently published as John J. Mearsheimer, "The Aims of Education," in *Philosophy and Literature*, Vol. 22, No. 1 (April 1998), pp. 137-155.

(We jump into the middle of his speech)

The Non-aims of Education at Chicago

Providing Truth

There is a powerful bias at the University of Chicago against providing you with the truth about the important issues we study. Instead, we aim to produce independent thinkers who can reach their own conclusions. To put the matter in slightly different terms, we expect you to figure out the truth, if there is one.

There is no question that there is a body of accepted knowledge in every discipline that will be taught to you in a rather straightforward way without stirring up much intellectual debate. For example, there is not likely to be much discussion in a basic physics class about whether objects falling towards earth accelerate at 32 feet per second. All of this is to say that you will sometimes find yourself in classes where there is in fact only one right answer to the question at hand, and there is no good reason for you to question it, or how you got it. This is not to deny that you will want to understand the underlying logic of the solution.

It is probably fair to say that you are likely to find a larger body of accepted knowledge in the biological and physical sciences than in either the social sciences or the humanities. I believe that you are least likely to find approved solutions in your courses in the humanities, where pretty much everything is up for grabs. In the social sciences, you are likely to find considerable variation, with economics looking a lot like the physical sciences or mathematics, and history and anthropology looking more like the humanities.

Nevertheless, there are a bevy of key questions in every discipline that have no approved solutions and where there are raging debates about the correct answer. In

fact, in some fields, you will find disagreement about whether there is any such thing as a correct answer to an important question. In any field, the open questions are the ones that faculty care most about, and thus they dominate their research agendas. These questions define the frontiers of knowledge in different disciplines. More importantly for your purposes, these will be the defining questions of your undergraduate experience. The reason that they will be so important for you is that they have no approved solution, and thus you can use your own critical faculties to figure out which answer in the relevant literature is best. If you are not satisfied with any of those, then you will be encouraged to come up with your own.

In short, I am saying that there is a powerful norm at this institution to not tell you what to think about important issues, but instead to let you reach your own conclusions. Our forte is teaching you how to think, not what to think.

This is not to deny that faculty will often believe that they have the approved solution to controversial questions. Many of us think we have the truth about important issues. I believe, for example, that I have correct answers to many of the key puzzles in international relations. Unfortunately, there are more than a few scholars who think my answers are misguided and that their alternative explanations are superior to mine. The key point for you, however, is that we will not attempt to impose our theories on you. We will certainly tell you what we think, and we will try to convince you that our perspectives are the correct ones, but we will also present you with the alternative views and then leave it up to you to decide what you think. Indeed, that is what critical thinking is all about.

Teaching Morality

Not only is there a powerful imperative at Chicago to stay away from teaching the truth, but the University also makes little effort to provide you with moral guidance. Indeed, it is a remarkably amoral institution. I would say the same thing, by the way, about all other major colleges and universities in this country.

To illustrate this point, I want to tell you a story about this chapel and the founding of the University of Chicago. As most of you know, John D. Rockefeller was the principal benefactor of this school when it was established at the end of the nineteenth century. He was the Bill Gates of his day, and he gave generously to this university. The building on campus he cared most about was this chapel, which bears his name. He cared so much about this chapel because he was deeply interested in promoting Christian values at Chicago. Regarding the construction of this chapel, Rockefeller explicitly stated, "As the spirit of religion should penetrate and control the university, so that building which represents religion ought to be the central and dominant feature of the university group. Thus it will be proclaimed that the University in its ideal is dominated by the spirit of religion, all its departments are inspired by religious feeling, and all its work is directed to the highest ends."

Those very words of John D. Rockefeller, in fact, are chiseled in the stone wall at the back of this chapel. On the same wall, there is another chiseled message. This one is from the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Fund, which provided money to cover the ministrations of this chapel over time. The inscription reads: "The purpose of this fund is to promote the religious idealism of the students of the university and of all those who come within its gates through the broadest and most liberal development of the spiritual forces centering in and radiating from this chapel."

Rockefeller was not some lone voice in the wilderness at the time. Indeed, William Rainey Harper, who was the first president of this University, and by almost all accounts did a splendid job, was a deeply religious man who believed that religion had an important role to play on campus. He saw no conflict between morality and knowledge. Indeed, he instituted mandatory chapel at Chicago in 1897; all undergraduates were required to attend chapel services once a week. Moreover, Chicago was not an anomaly among top-flight colleges in the late nineteenth century. Religion also played a central role in campus life at schools like Yale and Stanford, just to name two.

The importance of religion at elite educational institutions like Chicago diminished greatly in the first decades of the twentieth century. Nevertheless, educational leaders were convinced that you could still study and teach morality without religion. They believed that the scientific method could be used to discover the correct moral precepts. Social scientists, in other words, could employ their tools to study ethics, and in the end, you would have a scientific morality. Social scientists would take the place of the clergy. In essence, proponents of this perspective believed that there was no conflict between critical thinking and the pursuit of knowledge on one hand, and the study of morality on the other hand.

Over the course of the twentieth century, the effort to develop a scientific morality failed almost completely.

Today, elite universities operate on the belief that there is a clear separation between intellectual and moral purpose, and they pursue the former while largely ignoring the latter.

There is no question that the University of Chicago makes hardly any effort to provide you with moral guidance. Moreover, I would bet that you will take few classes here at Chicago where you discuss ethics or morality in any detail, mainly because those kind of courses do not exist.

There is, however, one important exception to what I have just said about ethics. The University does explicitly condemn cheating, academic fraud, and plagiarism. Not only do virtually all the faculty believe that it is morally wrong to cheat or steal another person's ideas, but such behavior is also antithetical to the pursuit of truth, which we care so much about. After all, creating false data thwarts knowledge-building, while stealing ideas from another person is a direct violation of critical thinking, where the emphasis is on using your own faculties to analyze a problem. However, this qualification aside,

I believe that Chicago is a fundamentally amoral institution.

Remember ...

We have every resource ... back to Corinthians 1:4-7

God, in His grace, has given us the best schooling available.

He will not stop working with us until we make it into His presence as fully, completely, perfectly holy people.

But if we get it wrong ... then most of us will NOT know. We will wonder what is wrong with everyone else.

God, I live with people who just don't get it.

Our heads refuse to be God-educated; and even though our hearts are somewhat unsettled, we are comforted by the reality that, in the human-wisdom system, we are making good grades

3:1-4 But if you have the resource, then it should translate into lifestyle

Just because we are saved, just because we have the Spirit does not guarantee that we will be spiritual in behavior.

We can have all the resources, but be ungodly.

If the Cross of Christ does not make a difference in our lives, it is because we

We know

We can have the spiritual document, but never use it other than to claim privileges that are associated with the document.

We can have the resources, but never use them.

We can be connected, but never listen or talk.

Our spiritual wisdom is noted not by what we can state, but by what we display.

Our spiritual smarts (understanding Spiritual Wisdom in the Cross) can be accurately graded not by documents, diplomas or marks, or our ability to explain its content, but in the way we handle each day.

We've become academics, concerned with scholastics, educational rather than realistic. We lack maturity.

We have Spirit-wisdom, God's inside truth,

Having God's inside truth, Spirit-wisdom, should help us think through life smartly, but if we act like everyone else, we know little of what we ought to know.

To have the mind of the Spirit, yet act like mainstream of society, is to miss the richness of the Christ's cross.

The richness of truth that is compressed in the Christ's act on the cross

There is a unique wisdom, but definitely wisdom / smarts in the Cross, but it is recognized as smarts only when the orientation of our minds are re-altered ... God's Spirit shows us the brilliance of God's act.

What Christianity highlights, but society downplays – Christ's death on the Cross – is Holy Spirit insight into this death,

Human Wisdom:

The petty things of life become big and the big things become petty.

Human wisdom and God's wisdom are worlds apart for human wisdom takes petty things and makes them big; the Spirit of God takes the big thing of the world and exposes them for what they are – petty.

Human Wisdom: taking petty things and hanging life on them.
Spirit of God Wisdom:

God's wisdom is conveyed by the Holy Spirit

CONCLUSION

My husband Gene and I volunteered to help out on the early shift at a charity golf tournament. It was 6 a.m. when we left the house and the streets were deserted. At one intersection, the traffic light was turning yellow. Instead of slowing down, Gene gunned it. The light changed red just as we went through it. Instantly we heard a siren and saw blue lights flashing. Gene hadn't noticed the policeman following him. As we pulled over,

the officer approached us shaking his head. "You had plenty of time to stop for that light," he growled.

Without hesitating, Gene answered, "You're absolutely right, officer."

After a fleeting look of surprise, the policeman folded his ticket book, put it in his back pocket and said, "Your honesty just saved you a ticket. Nine people out of ten would have said the light was still yellow when they went through."

Shaking Gene's hand, the policeman smiled and waved us on our way with a parting word of advice: "Go on. But be careful—especially of who's behind you."

Monica R. Miller, *Christian Reader*, Vol. 34.

Portland, Oregon, Chief of Police Mark Kroeker tells this story about when he was an officer in Los Angeles. A woman was upstairs in her bedroom when she heard someone breaking in downstairs. She crawled under her bed with the phone and called 911, but the emergency system was having a problem, and it gave her a menu of options. Realizing that this would take a minute or more, her mind raced for other ways to reach the police.

She devised a resourceful plan. She grabbed a phone book and called the nearest Winchell's donut shop. She asked the employee who answered if there were any police officers in the shop, and the answer was, "Of course!" An officer was put on the line, the frightened woman told him her problem, he sprinted to his car and arrived in time to capture the thief.

Mark Kroeker, from a speech given at a banquet for Multnomah College (March 5, 2002), in Portland, Oregon; submitted by Jeffrey

ILL.

... an I.Q of 172 does not mean that one is moral.

John Ortberg

John Anderson, who is a good friend of mine, my first boss, he was a pastor for a while and a denominational official in Minnesota used to have to travel to do funerals in rural towns in Minnesota, and he would often travel with the guy who was the head of the funeral home who did the logistic stuff.

One time John was driving back with this guy in the hearse, and John was tired from doing the funeral so he stretched out in the back of the hearse and fell asleep...kind of a creepy place to take nap, but he did. While he was sleeping, the guy driving the hearse pulled into a service station to get gas in the hearse. This is a true story. John told me this. So the service station attendant is putting gas into the hearse when John wakes up. He has kind of a twisted sense of humor. He pulls the curtain back and knocks on the window and smiles and waves at the man who was putting gas in the hearse. He said he never saw anybody run so fast his whole life long for a very important reason...dead people tend to stay dead.

6We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. 8None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9However, as it is written:

**"No eye has seen,
no ear has heard,
no mind has conceived**

what God has prepared for those who love him"— 10but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. 11For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. 13This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. 14The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment:

16"For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

1Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ. 2I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. 3You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? 4For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men?

In July of 2006, the world-famous geneticist William French Anderson was convicted of child molestation charges. In a press conference, his attorney said, "Nothing about having a 176 I.Q. means you have good judgment."

William French Anderson: World-Renowned Scientist Sentenced for Molesting Girl

William French Anderson, once a runner-up for Time Magazine's Man of the Year, was sentenced Friday to 14 years in prison for molesting a young girl.

William French Anderson has often been referred to as "the father of gene therapy" because of his work on a controversial medical treatment, promising but still in experimental phases. In 1990, Anderson claimed to be the first person to treat a patient successfully with the treatment, which involves injecting sick patients with healthy genes from donors. In 1995, Time Magazine named him as a runner-up for their annual "Man of the Year" issue. The following year, his claims were found to have been exaggerated.

Anderson, 70, is no longer the man of the year. He was sentenced Friday to serve 14 years in prison for molesting the daughter of one of his employees. He could have been sentenced to up to 22 years behind bars. Many people, including a Nobel Prize winner and other notable scientists, wrote letters to the court in support of Anderson, who has a genius level IQ of 176.

However, Judge Michael Pastor said that Anderson's actions resulted in "incalculable" emotional devastation to a girl whom he described as being an insecure and trusting immigrant. "Because of intellectual arrogance, he persisted and he got away with as much as he could," the judge said.

The girl, now 19, took martial arts classes from Anderson at his home as a child. Last July a jury convicted Anderson of child molestation. Prosecutors said that he had molested the girl for four years, from 1997 until 2001, beginning when she was 10 years old. In February 2005, Anderson was also charged in Montgomery County, Maryland with molesting a 12-year-old Silver Spring, Maryland boy for three years in the 1980s.

Before the sentence was handed down, Anderson's victim was allowed to read a statement to the court. "Roughly three years ago, I wanted to kill myself," she said. "I couldn't live with all the pain...He maliciously destroyed my world to fulfill his own sick pleasures."

Anderson's defense attorneys argued during the trial that he had been only a friendly mentor to the girl, and that the charges were part of a smear campaign launched by her mother, who wanted to take over Anderson's position at the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine as director of the Gene Therapies Laboratories. Anderson resigned from the university in September.

During the trial, prosecutors played for jurors a tape-recorded conversation between Anderson and the girl, where she confronted him about his actions. On the tape, Anderson said, "I just did it, just something in me was evil." In his testimony, Anderson explained that he thought the girl was confronting him

about the emotional abuse he might have caused because of pressuring her to study hard and do well in school.

"If you cause somebody to crash, flunk out, that's just evil," he said.

By Buzzle Staff and Agencies

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