



# WISDOM

## WISDOM: To Do or Not to Do

June 6, 2021 | Speaker: Armando Lopez, Associate Pastor

### SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE:

To do or not to do? That is the question, that we are exploring today. We are talking about how to make better decisions, decisions that once made will lead us to live with fewer regrets. For all of us, the reality is that we are where we are in life because of the decisions that we have made. Our present life is the result of our past decisions.

Which leads me back to my opening question: To do or not to do. How do we choose rightly in the decisions that we have to make? Especially, when our decisions end up writing the story of our lives?

When we look through the book of Proverbs for how to discern God's will, the book doesn't give us "methods" for how to know if it is God's will or not. Rather, the book tells us **who** God guides, and how those who God guide make decisions. The book shows us the kind of plans that the wise make and how they make them, and it also brings us into a paradox, which I think ends up leading us to comfort

The integrity of the upright guides them,  
but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.  
~Proverbs 11:3

Someone who is upright is also someone who lives with integrity. That is, with completeness of self, with wholeness, who keeps his or her word, and that is because they understand that there is a God and they are rightly related to him, which makes them rightly related to others and to the way things are.

Someone who is focused on the self and his or her own personal gain is duplicitous, that is they are two-faced, because they look at people for the benefit they can get from them, not how they can benefit them.

The book of Proverbs is about character formation. And here is why this is important, because ***It is through the character that we have formed that God guides us.***

For us to choose wisely, we have to be rightly related to God and we have to cultivate the kind of character that is led by integrity and righteousness. Character formation is hard won, and it takes time, and it takes humility, but when developed, it leads us “safely through snares and triumphantly to a desired and promised destiny.”

### Principles for Plan Making

The plans of the righteous are just,  
but the advice of the wicked is deceitful.  
~ Proverbs 12:5 (NIV)

The way of fools seems right to them,  
but the wise listen to advice.  
~ Proverbs 12:15 (NIV)

The plans of the diligent lead to profit  
as surely as haste leads to poverty.  
~ Proverbs 21:5

### Three Principles for Plan Making:

1. Plan what is just, right (Prov. 12:5).
  - a. *How can I best benefit/serve the community around me given how God has made me?*
2. Seek good counsel (Prov. 12:5,15).
  - a. Who can I turn to for sound advice and counsel?
3. Be diligent, not impulsive (Prov. 21:5).
  - a. “In light of your past experience, your current circumstances, and your future hopes and dreams, what is the wise thing to do?” Andy Stanley

But now we come into a difficulty. We can plan well, make the right decisions, and the outcomes still fall outside of our control. How do we make decisions and not drive ourselves crazy about the results? We embrace the paradox.

In their hearts humans plan their course,  
but the Lord establishes their steps.  
~ Proverbs 16:9 (NIV)

Commit to the Lord whatever you do,  
and he will establish your plans.  
~ Proverbs 16:3 (NIV)

Many are the plans in a person’s heart,  
but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.  
~ Proverbs 19:21 (NIV)

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

*(for personal and small group discussion)*

1. What was most impactful to you from this weekend's service?
2. Share with the group a decision that you made that changed your life or had a deep impact in your life.
3. Armando mentioned that it is through the character that we have formed that God guides us. What role do you think character plays in the decisions that you make?
4. From the plan making principles above, which one is the one you need to embrace the most?
5. All things work for the good of those who love God (Romans 8:28). How does that give you comfort when it comes to the decisions that you have to make or have made?

## NOTES

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