

Education and Wisdom

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Education does not happen in a vacuum. On the contrary, it is intimately connected to the sociopolitical organization, culture, religion, and worldview of the context in which it is developed. To a large degree, these factors determine the goal of education, which in turn determines the educational content (the what) and process (the how). The more reductionist the goal of education—for example, if it is only to promote intellectual knowledge, or only to refine skills and abilities, or only to seek greater self-realization—the less it leads to an abundant life and the farther it falls from wisdom. Why? Because wisdom is, in essence, the mediator and promotor of life in its fullness. Therefore, if the point of education is to become wise—as emphasized in the Bible (Mt 7:24–29; 1 Cor 2:1–15)—then both the educational *content* and *process* need to be imbued with wisdom. Let us explore both aspects.

According to the Bible, being wise or having wisdom means making decisions based on the fear of the Lord, with the ability to discern the time and manner of doing the appropriate thing without falling into either legalism or relativism; wisdom thus implies promoting

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