

## Crossville Church of Christ

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# COMPASS

Using God's Word to Chart The Course  
Of A Congregation

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### Elders:

Frank Bohannon  
Jiggs Killgore  
Jonathan Loveday  
Larry McDuffee  
Brian McLaughlin  
Jon Tatum

### Deacons:

Jim Bell  
Charles Evans  
Kyle Fairman  
Dale Hennessee  
Mike Isaacson  
David Kerley  
Doug Loveday  
Greg Maxwell  
Don Napier  
Tom Parham  
Mark Roberts  
Roger Smith  
Jason Wyatt  
Jerry Wood

### Ministers:

Barry Kennedy  
Ken Mears

### Missionaries: (India)

Don Iverson  
Jim Waldron

### Service Times

Sunday Bible Study	9 AM
Sunday Worship	10 AM
	6 PM
Wednesday	6 PM

### OTHER ACTIVITIES:

<b>Ladies Bible Class</b>	
Tuesdays	11AM
<b>Prayer Meeting</b>	
Tuesdays	10 AM
<b>Joyful Generation</b> (Youth Devotional & fellowship)	
1st Sunday	7:00 PM

January 10, 2015



*"I am the way, the truth,  
and the life: no man cometh  
unto the Father, but by me"  
(John 14:6).*

# HOLDING THE CIGARETTE OUT THE WINDOW

Neal Pollard

I saw an older man, trying to negotiate a turn, with the window partially down and balancing a cigarette out of that window. It was 25 degrees, so my guess would be that he was not overheated by his tiny, burning cylindrical distraction. It's not an uncommon occurrence, though I've normally observed teens doing this. A friend of mine in High School said he dangled his cigarettes out the window to keep his mom from smelling it in the car. There may be more than one reason why people do this, but concealing the fact of one's smoking (or at least its pungent smell) seemingly factors in.

Trying to conceal actions we know are wrong or think others will disapprove of is as old as the Garden of Eden. After Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command, "the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of God among the trees of the garden" (Gen. 3:8b). From that point forward, mankind has shown a remarkably similar tendency—regardless of century, geographical location, gender, age, or other demographical details—to try and cover up his sins. David, one whose heart was ordinarily pleasing to God, conceived such deception and dishonesty in an effort to hide his egregious sin with Bathsheba (cf. 2 Sam. 11:6-27). Solomon issues multiple warnings to those who, rather than repenting, attempt to conceal their iniquity (Prov. 10:6, 11, 18; 28:13).

It extends beyond just trying to conceal the smell of smoke, doesn't it? Guilt, fear, worry, and shame usually leads the pornography addict, participant in an illicit relationship or affair, the problem drinker or drug user, as well as the general hypocrite, to use up a lot of energy and attention to covering up their wrongdoings. The hope is that they can keep discovery out of the reach and detection of the ones whose acceptance and approval they greatly desire to have. So often, these concealers have forgotten someone very important. Such is a serious miscalculation since that someone cannot fail to notice. The eyes of the Lord watch all the ways of man and his paths (Prov. 5:21) and "are in every place, watching the evil and the good" (Prov. 15:3). "The Lord looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men" (Psa. 33:13).



We may conceal deep, dark secrets from even those closest to us for a lifetime. Yet, ultimately, no one will get away with a lifestyle of sin. God won't be duped. We won't pull the wool over His all-seeing eyes. Instead, our energy should be directed toward overcoming sin and looking to Him to give us the strength we need to do so. All of us struggle with temptation and sin, but how we address it is an indicator of our character. May we be transparent with our God and honest with one another!

# SEARCHING FOR TRUE WISDOM

Carl Garner

Most of us realize that genuine wisdom is a quality of great value. We digest a bundle of facts and are exposed to a great deal of knowledge during our years in school, but we know there is a big difference between knowledge and wisdom. A common definition of wisdom says, "Wisdom is the ability to make appropriate use of knowledge."

While the passing of years and the experiences gained thereby contribute to wisdom, old men are not always wise. Solomon was given great wisdom. In fact, "Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt, for he was wiser than all men" 1 Kings 4:30-31. He had it, but he let it get away from him. In Ecclesiastes 4:13, he wrote, "Better is a poor and wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished." Most of us – if we are honest – are painfully aware of areas in our life in which wisdom is lacking. What qualities come together to make up genuine wisdom? Can a person who possesses wisdom ever make a mistake? Come to a wrong conclusion? Change his/her mind? Can two wise people, having searched out the facts, reach opposite conclusions? The following acrostic reveals a few qualities that most of us would agree are characteristic of anyone who possesses wisdom.

**Willing:** A wise person realizes that important things are accomplished by those who are willing – willing to work, to "launch out into the deep" when the occasion demands it, Luke 5:4; willing to back away when the facts, the funds or the means demand it; willing to be patient and supportive of the weak, 1 Thessalonians 5:14; willing to study God's word and then do it; willing to be an influence for good and shine "as lights in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation," Philippians 2:15; willing to do what is right even if everyone else chooses to do otherwise.

**Integrity:** Webster says integrity is "fidelity to moral principles; honesty." Integrity characterizes a person of wisdom, not only because of its value in the marketplace and in the presence of our peers, but because it is demanded by the word of God, Ephesians 4:27-29, Colossians 3:1-17. The person without genuine character/integrity is neither wise nor in harmony with God's will.

**Self-examining:** Wisdom does not spend all her time passing judgment upon others, but rather, realizes one's own flaws, Matthew 7:1-5. Instead, the wise will ever be evaluating self, refusing to allow sin and hypocrisy to discourage others, Matthew 23:14, Galatians 6:4. "Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves," 2 Corinthians 13:5.

**Discerning:** Solomon asked God for "an understanding heart...that I may discern between good and bad," 1 Kings 3:9. Any wise person will want to know this difference because the "wages of sin is death," Romans 6:23. Such discernment is available and possible for those "who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil," Hebrews 5:14.

**Open-minded:** Wisdom requires that one have a "ready mind," Acts 17:11, but will use their discernment to screen out things that would weaken or destroy. New ideas and current thoughts may provide good insight for the wise, for those who measure every idea by the plumb line of God's word.

**Meekness:** The quality of meekness is a combination of humility, gentleness, courage, submission, and strength blended with tenderness. A person who is wise will possess great vitality and power, yet has those qualities under control. Wisdom is exhibited by self-control and the proper use of talent and ability.

Each of these ingredients leads us to Psalm 111:10: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." If you have knowledge, use wisdom in the exercise of that knowledge, and always with the "wisdom from above," James 3:17.