



The Way of Wisdom

Part Two: **Suspect**

June 28, 2020

Jesus Knows What is in Humans: John 2:23-25

Imago Dei: yes

Intrinsic worth: yes

Malware: yes

All have sinned: **Romans 3:10,23; 7:14**

Need for Suspicion/Discernment/Judgment

Suspect everyone's message

Assume the best of the messenger while suspecting the message

Those in power, those with an agenda

Suspect the message of Christian leaders? Yes!

Prophets testing prophets: **1 Corinthians 14:29,32**

Bereans tested what they heard: **Acts 17:11**

Trust increases with the level of personal acquaintance

Even pure motive doesn't guarantee correct thinking

There is a way that seems right but it leads to death: **Prov 14:12, 16:25**

The simple believe everything, but the prudent gives thoughts to their steps: **Prov 14:15**

The one who states his case first seems right, until cross examination: **Prov 18:17**

Satan's strategy of the lie: **John 8:44-45. 2 Corinthians 11:14**

The Mechanics of Discernment

The helpful tool of the Wesleyan Quadrilateral

Scripture: is what I am hearing congruent with clear Biblical principles?

Tradition (history): how is what I am hearing enlightened by history?

Reason: does what I am hearing cohere with the laws of reason and logic?

Experience: does my experience or the experience of others corroborate what I am hearing?

Current Event Case Study: systemic racism

The Inescapable Problem

After applying the discipline of discernment, what then?

Trusting in my own ability to have discerned correctly

The heart is deceitful: **Jeremiah 17:9**

Suspecting myself: **Proverbs 3:5,7; 16:2; 28:26**

Humility tempers discernment and leads to the discipline of submission (next week!)