

## Common Sense

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: 10X

**Text: Proverbs 3:21(NIV, NLT) Proverbs 2:11, Proverbs 4:7**

~ G.K Chesterton – We live in an age where common sense has become uncommon.

Common sense – practical wisdom, sound and prudent judgment based on Godly wisdom and a simple perception of the situation or facts.

Every day our world seems to go just a little more crazy. It seems we are losing common sense and the ability to think clearly. One of the marks of those who are 10X is that they have good sense and sensibility.

Common sense is sound judgment in practical matters. **Proverbs 8:5** Some translations speak of the need to develop common sense, while other translations simply call it providence or discretion. **Proverbs 2:11**

Biblically, common sense can be thought of as a combination of wisdom and discretion **Proverbs 8:12–14 (NKJV & NLT)** Wisdom is knowing what to do; discretion is knowing when and where to do it.

Common sense is the ability to see, hear and understand things, and then make decisions that are common to most people without the need for over analyzing. When you add Godly morality and Godly revelation to common sense, you get Godly wisdom. Godly morality is a conviction and lifestyle based upon the commands of God and His ways. Godly revelation is an active awareness of who God is and what He does or is doing and what He wants us to do and how to do it.

If you grow in Godly wisdom, you begin to see people and the world the way God sees them. You begin to understand what God wants you to do, how He wants you to do it, when He wants you to do it, and why. Acting on this understanding is called faith.

Common sense doesn't come out of books, (although wisdom is found in God's Word), and it isn't related to smarts. Common sense or wisdom does not come overnight, it must be sought out and it must be learned. Much of it must be experienced. Discretion is having a knack for making good decisions within responsible boundaries.

Common sense involves planning ahead. **Luke 14:28** Discretion and wisdom involves counting the cost. When given the choice between two evils, choose neither one, not the lesser of the two. Discretion means not rushing into things. The saying "fools rush in where angels fear to tread" is a vital lesson to learn.

The desire for instant gratification is the enemy of common sense. Many people have become ensnared in trouble and heartache because they rejected a wise path and sought instead immediate satisfaction.

People do many foolish things because they are naïve, and this can get us into trouble that is not easily undone. Every choice and every decision we make carries **consequences**.

Common sense reminds us to sit down and **think** about what we are doing and the long-term effects for good or bad. Those who are 10X are thinkers.

**Proverbs 19:2 (NKJV, NLT, NIV, AMP)**

~ Charles Spurgeon – Zeal and discretion are like the two lions which supported the throne of Solomon. They make a fine pair; both are poor things apart. Zeal without discretion is wildfire, and discretion without zeal is cowardice. Zeal and discretion must be weaved together.

**Folly** is a term we don't use very often, but it is a term that is used rather frequently in Scripture. It suggests a lack of good sense, lack of foresight, failing to realize the consequences of a stupid act before it occurs. Scripture calls that folly or foolishness.

Part of being a fool is having no common sense or being **void** of understanding.

**Proverbs 7:7 (NKJV, AMP, NLT) Proverbs 24:30-33 NKJV, NLT)**

The book of Proverbs proclaims the benefits of gaining wisdom and also shows the folly of being a fool. Those who are 10X seek out wisdom.

**Proverbs 13:16, Proverbs 16:22, Proverbs 26:11, Proverbs 3:13-14**

Wisdom allows us to see life the way God does. When we seek God's perspective, we can make decisions based upon their **eternal** significance rather than selfish interests. When we choose to make decisions based on wisdom alone, we are exercising common sense.

Common sense involves not **repeating** the same mistakes.

**Proverbs 18:6-7(NLT), Proverbs 17:10 (NKJV, AMP) Proverbs 19:19 (AMP)**

A common sense person learns from their mistakes and missteps. They realize that the results are not worth it. Common sense teaches us that we indeed reap what we sow. **Galatians 6:7** Those who are 10X live by the principle of Sowing and Reaping and will not be **deceived** into thinking that things work differently than that. Those who are 10X turn their blemishes into beauty and their mistakes into an advantage by learning from them.

Common sense is often developed by learning from the consequences of poor choices. The school of hard knocks educates many. It seems like some have **thicker** heads and a steeper learning curve than others. Everyone makes bad decisions at some point. The difference between the wise and the foolish is that one learns from his mistakes and the other keeps repeating them. Some people seem born with a more level head, while others learn from experience. Either way, wisdom and common sense should be continually pursued in order to experience the best God has for us **Proverbs 2:1-8.**

Common sense involves **simplicity**. In all the complexities of life lay simple answers. Great amounts of head knowledge have little to do with common sense.

~ Someone once said that – “the greatest education that anyone can get is a degree in common sense from the university of life.”

~ It is a thousand times better to have common sense without an education than to have an education without common sense.

Simplicity is the conveyor that carries the profound from one mind to the other. When we look throughout the word of God, we find that God uses the **common** man far more often than the one who is world wise. **1 Corinthians 1:26-29** Those with common sense have the common touch. This is why God sent Jesus. This was so we could understand and know Him.

Common does not imply stupid or naïve, it simply means **relatable**. Many people who are proud of their common touch are not wise. The common touch without common sense or wisdom actually makes you foolish. We are not called to be uneducated or ignorant. As a matter of fact, common sense will always push you past being **mediocre**. Being simple does not mean being simple-minded. (Example of Dolly Parton, she turned “Aw shucks” country into an empire.) God never called us to be average He called us to be wise.

Wisdom simplifies things. It takes complex truth and conveys them in easy-to-understand ways.

~ “Don’t use a big word when a singularly unloquacious and diminutive linguistic expression will satisfactorily accomplish the contemporary necessity.”

Common sense helps us make good **decisions**. Many decisions carry many choices. Common sense has a way that it pursues answers.

- 1) **Seek** God’s will. **Proverbs 3:5-6, Acts 15:28** God’s will is not a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma. God promises to make our paths straight. All we need to do is ask. **Matthew 7:7**
- 2) Refuse to follow your **feelings**. Common sense knows that our heart, our gut and our instincts can be wrong, and they often are. Common sense makes their feelings known to God but seeks to know His will above all else.
- 3) Those with common sense know that there are things they don’t know and look for available **information**. They do their research. They weigh the pros and cons and the different ways to do or approach a thing. They look at alternatives and find the best way of many ways. (This does not include following Jesus who is THE WAY)
- 4) They **wait** on the Lord. **Isaiah 40:31** Those with common sense know that they are waiting on God not on the situation or the provision. Our hope is IN the Lord. He has it all.
- 5) Those with common sense **make** a decision and then implement it. Those with common sense “pull the trigger” and put action behind their decision. They know if you do nothing that nothing gets done. – Common Sense.

**Proverbs 24:3 (NLT) - A house is built by wisdom and becomes strong through good sense. (AMP) Through [skillful and Godly] wisdom a house [a life, a home, a family] is built, And by understanding it is established [on a sound and good foundation]**