
Becoming a person of understanding.

*Colossians 1:9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and **understanding that the Spirit gives,** ¹ ¹⁰ **so that** you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹ being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, ¹² and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

Prov. 20:27 The human spirit is the lamp of the LORD that sheds light on one's inmost being.

Prov. 20:5 The purposes of a person's heart are deep waters, but one who has insight draws them out.

Prov. 20:12 Ears that hear and eyes that see—the LORD has made them both.

*Proverbs 2:6 For **the LORD gives wisdom;** from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.*

Key: Pg. 1: Assumptions; Pg. 2: Pride; feel; Pg. 3: learners; pleasure; want.

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Tool #2: Understanding vs. Pushing Building a Relational Tool Box—part 2

June 13, 2021

Tool: Stud finder.

■ The need for understanding

*Prov. 18:2 **Fools** find no pleasure in **understanding** but delight in airing their own opinions.*

*Proverbs 2:1 My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, ² turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to **understanding**—³ indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for **understanding**,⁴ and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure,⁵ then you will **understand** the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.⁶ For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and **understanding**.*

■ Types of understanding.

Understanding #1: You see and “get” someone’s words.

Understanding #2: Comprehending the *implication, intent* and *relative importance* of someone’s ideas and feelings.

■ What keeps us from understanding someone?

1. A. We assume we:

*Prov. 18:13 If anyone gives answer **before he hears** it is his folly and shame.*

- Already know what the person will say and mean.
- Have all the facts,
- Comprehend all the factors involved.
- Understand the complexities of a problem.
- Understand the *relational* complexities of a situation.

2. P_____:

*Prov. 15:28 The mind of the righteous **ponders how** to **answer** but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.*

- We hear what we want to hear. We believe what we want to believe.
- We jump to conclusions that are skewed to the conclusion that exonerates me while leaving you feeling foolish.
- We prop up a straw man to avoid communicating understanding.
- We overdramatize what someone is saying

3. When someone doesn't f_____ understood. When we:

- Minimize what they're saying or feeling,
- Expect the person to know us so well that they can "read our minds."
- Dismiss what they're saying.
- Instruct them as to how they should think or feel about a situation.
- Correct what they're saying.
- Try to "fix" a situation when the person wants is to be understood. \

The tools to understanding someone

- **Attitude tools:**

Prov. 18:2 Fools find no pleasure in understanding but delight in airing their own opinions.

*** We must become l_____!

*** We must re-think p_____.

James 1:19 Be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to be angry.

The missing jewel: we must communicate that we W_____ to understand what someone is saying!

- **Communication tools: Engage!**

- **Listen:**

- **Ask:**

- **Clarify.**

- **Explore:** "Tell me more about _____."
