

## **Why Sage Christianity?** *Because We Need Wiser Ways of Doing Life*

[Modified Transcript]

A brief way to describe wisdom is like this. Wisdom is “being quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to vent anger” (James 1:19).

I grew up in a family of multiple divorces, which meant multiple pockets of blended families. When I was with parts of my blended family, I was in a context in which they identified with Jesus, went to church and had regard for Christianity. When I was with other parts of my blended family on other weekends or times of the month or year, I did life in a context in which they disregarded Christianity. For them, if they were engaged in any kind of institutional religion it was in reaction to it. If or when they sought out a spirituality it was not out of a religious concern.

### **Experiencing A Problem Regardless of Deconstructed or Constructed Faith**

Growing up in these two kinds of competing environments the one thing these blended environments had in common was that none of us knew how to relate to each other.

*Regardless of what faith we were constructing or what faith we were deconstructing, regardless of how we were moving the furniture of our “God language” around in the living rooms of our lives, we still hurt each other.*

I think you can see this ongoing relational challenge, regardless of what someone says about their faith, when you watch social media or listen to how people talk about and to one another. You see what wells up within your own heart too.

*It seems that regardless of what we say we believe we still don't know how to be quick to listen to another person to be slow to speak and slow to vent anger.*

### **Seeking Freedom from an Unhelpful Kind of Wisdom**

I'm longing for this kind of relational wisdom that the earliest followers of Jesus spoke of, because we still have real questions, serious doubts, doubts that nag at us and can make us miserable. We have anxiety and sadness and practical longings of delight that we're trying to sort out. I'm looking for wiser relational spaces because so much of what we're encountering is a wisdom that isn't helping us. The unhelpful opposite wisdom of being

quick to speak  
quick to vent anger,  
slow to listen to one another

Jesus referred to himself as “one greater than Solomon” (Matthew 12:42). The earliest Christians thought of him as the fulfillment of all wisdom, wisdom itself (I Corinthians 1:3; Colossians 2:3).

- What we're trying to do in this community is find wiser relational spaces.
- How we're trying to do that is to bring our questions and sorrows into conversation with wisdom as Jesus describes it.
- Why we're trying to do this is the hope that we can grow slow enough to speak slow enough with our anger and quick enough with our listening that we could begin to help each other.

This offers a glimpse of what we're searching for.

### **Questions for Further Reflection**

1. What encouraged you or surprised you in a positive way that you don't want to forget?
2. What bothered you or didn't set right with you in your first impression?
3. What did you notice about how Jesus was described? What about this description sounded attractive or inviting to you?
4. Did anything in these hints about Jesus raise a question for you or not sit right?
5. What follow up question would you like to ask?