

Introduction - Godly wisdom is described by James as possessing the characteristics of meekness, purity, peaceableness, gentleness, deference, mercy and fruitfulness (James 3:13-18). As we in the Confederation of Reformed Evangelicals strive for reformation in the modern church, we should be careful to do so mindful of these characteristics and to avoid the grievous sins of pride and disdain for our brothers and sisters in Christ who do not share all of our theological predilections.

The Peril of Trusting in Oneself - Luke 18:9-14. This is a parable about those who trust in themselves that they are righteous and despise others. It is not only about works-based salvation. It is also about self-righteousness and our general attitude toward other saints. It is a warning to those who become prideful in their Christianity. Like the novice in 1 Timothy 3:6 who is unqualified for the office of elder due to the temptation of pride, so we as a fledgling denomination ought to exercise great restraint and charity in criticizing our fellow saints.

Meekness Doesn't Exclude - **1** –Vigorously opposing those false teachers and false churches within our midst. ^{2nd} Peter 2: 1-3 ; 12 -22 Nothing could be much clearer than our obligation as a church to defend our borders and our citizens against perverts masquerading as Christian teachers and leading others astray. We have absolutely no *basis* for unity with these dogs. (1 Cor 5) Their hatred for God is evident in their hatred for His law and His truth. **2** – Acknowledging the substantial problems that do exist in the main of evangelicalism today. The leaven of unbelief has worked its way into the heart of our churches and it is expanding and pushing righteousness out. But we need to work toward reforming the church in the manner that God has decreed, not according to our own lights or passions. (James 1:19). **3** –Openly striving with our true brethren over more than just “the foundational issues”. Ephesians 4:11-16 – The reason we have the church offices of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher throughout the history of the church is *so that* we can work or strive toward reaching the unity of the faith.

Godly Wisdom Defined - Godly wisdom is of the heart, not the mind. The Greeks were stumbled by this (1 Cor 1) and we share their passion for the intellect. Jesus Christ is our wisdom from God. It is a spiritual condition of the heart (Proverbs 2:10) that is established by God (Exodus 36:2). It is therefore easily within the grasp of the simplest of mind (Prov 1:20-23) and consists primarily in understanding and meditating upon the word of God (Prov 2:1-11).

Godly Wisdom Is Meek – James gives us this instruction within a warning against would-be teachers who exhibit a propensity toward the polemic against their brethren. Godly wisdom will be characterized by purity, peaceableness, gentleness, willingness to yield, mercy, fruitfulness. Our striving with our brethren must bear these marks or be accounted as the ranting of fools.

Pride & Elitism - Isolation from our non-reformed brethren is an emblem of folly. (Prov 18:1-2). Pride is the very antithesis of godly wisdom. (Proverbs: everywhere!!) We must repent of our isolationism and our elitism and go out and connect deeply with our true brothers and sisters in Christ outside of the CRE and begin striving with them in a godly fashion. Apologies may be warranted. The unity of the spirit is presupposed amongst Christians and provides the vehicle for striving toward the unity of the faith. (Eph 4:1-3, 11-13). Our striving must be done in context of the Body of Christ, or as Paul puts it, with our ‘fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God who are being fitted together with us as a holy temple in the Lord’ (Eph 2:19-22)

Conclusion - The modern church is being carried about by every wind of doctrine and many believe that this is a virtue. We do need to strive against this. All the more reason to do so with great mercy, humility, peaceableness, deference and love toward our brethren, our fellow “modern evangelicals”.