

A Balanced Handling Of Knowledge

I. Introduction:

A. Knowledge can be dangerous (**I Corinthians 8:1**).

1. Knowledge can cause one to overly trust in oneself (**Isaiah 47:10**).
2. Knowledge can become a burden (**Ecclesiastes 1:18**).
3. Even the learning process (**Proverbs 1:5**) can be dangerous (**II Timothy 3:6-7** and **II Peter 3:15-17**).

B. Yet, we know God expects us to have knowledge (**Proverbs 19:2**, **Hosea 6:6**, **Colossians 3:10**, **I Timothy 2:4**, **II Peter 1:1-12**, and **II Peter 3:18**).

1. Willful ignorance is inexcusable (**Acts 17:30** and **I Corinthians 15:34**).
2. People have erred because of such (**Isaiah 5:13**, **Hosea 4:1-6**, and **Matthew 22:29**).

II. Body: Properly Handling Knowledge (**James 3:13**).

A. Wise [skilled; expert, etc. Strong's # 4680]; endowed with knowledge [intelligent, experienced, one having the knowledge of an expert; Strong's #1990]

1. The right wisdom (**Jeremiah 9:23-24** and **Ephesians 5:15-17**).
2. The right knowledge (**Proverbs 2:1-9** and **John 5:39**).
3. Using that wisdom and knowledge in a good conversation [manner of life] (**I Peter 1:13-17** and **I John 2:3-6**).

B. We are cautioned in the Scriptures against pride, arrogance, self-reliance, over-confidence, etc. (**Proverbs 8:13**, **Proverbs 16:5**, **Proverbs 23:4**, **I Corinthians 4:1-6**, **I Corinthians 10:12**, and **I Peter 5:5-6**).

1. Through proper knowledge, handled correctly, the faithful know not to be those things wherein our Lord is displeased (**Colossians 1:10**).
2. Jesus was seen as one that knew everything (**John 21:17**), but was able to walk humbly at the same time (**Philippians 2:3-11**).

C. It is wrong though to walk about putting on some acts that show some appearance of humility (**Colossians 2:20-23**).

1. It is NOT wrong to KNOW the truth (**John 8:31-32**).
2. We are not supposed to dwell in a realm of uncertainty (**I John 5:13** and **I John 5:20**).
3. It is not wrong for things to come easy to you at times (**Proverbs 14:6**).
4. Confidence is not sinful (**Proverbs 14:26**, **Acts 28:30-31**, **Ephesians 3:12**, **Hebrews 3:14**, **Hebrews 10:35-39**, and **I John 3:20-21**).
5. Those people that put on a show of false humility saying: "We could be wrong and you'd be our friend if you show us that." -If you don't know you're right you need to STOP what you're saying/doing (**Romans 14:23**)!

III. Conclusion: With proper motives, understand the value of knowledge (**Ecclesiastes 7:12**; cf. **Philippians 3:8**).