

4. READ 1 Corinthians 1:21-24 and 30. What is Paul talking about when he calls Christ “the wisdom of God?”

What is wisdom and what is foolishness about the cross?

5. Since God “possessed” Wisdom (in Himself) or “brought forth” Wisdom (out of Himself), then His creation is an expression of His own being, orderly not random, and purposeful not absurd.

Give examples from your own experience where you see Wisdom in God’s creation. Beauty? Order? Design?

6. GOOGLE the “Nicene Creed” to learn when it was written and why is it still significant today? Here’s one paragraph on Christ.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Wisdom: A Lady of Ultimate Worth

Proverbs 8

March 11, 2018

Literary insights—poetry frequently uses **figures** of speech

Simile—comparing two things using the word ‘like’ or ‘as’

*“Like cold **water** to a weary soul
is good news from a distant land.” (Proverbs 25:25)*

Metaphor—a word picture using vivid descriptions

*“Without **wood** a fire goes out;
without gossip a quarrel dies down.” (Proverbs 26:20)*

Personification—gives human qualities to non-living objects or abstract ideas

*“Love and faithfulness meet together;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.” (Psalm 85:10)*

[Lady Wisdom speaking] *“To you, O men, I call out;
I raise my voice to all mankind.” (Proverbs 8:4)*

Lady Wisdom—a **personification** of Solomon’s teachings (1:1-2)

Wisdom always is referred to with **feminine** pronouns

- She **calls** out and makes speeches (1:20 and 8:1-3)
- She can be rejected and ignored (1:24)
- She **laughs** when judgment comes (1:26)
- She keeps quiet and hides (1:28)
- She can be **embraced** ; never let her go (3:18; 4:8-9)
- She is called “sister” (7:4)
- She builds a house and prepares a **banquet** (9:1-6)

Proverbs 8 is a long poem in praise of Lady Wisdom

1 Corinthians 13 is written in praise of Christ-like **love**

Hebrews 11 is written in praise of God-honoring **faith**

Theological insights

If we begin by saying that Proverbs 8 is talking about Christ, then we will draw several **wrong** conclusions.

In Proverbs 8:22, Lady Wisdom says about herself . . .

The LORD brought me forth (NIV)

The LORD possessed me (KJV, NKJV, NASB, ESV)

The LORD created me (RSV, NET)

Also “*acquired*” (CSB) “*made*” (HCSB) “*formed*” (NLT)

Lady Wisdom has a beginning, an **ancient** beginning from before all things, but still a beginning (see also 8:24). God is the divine architect of creation and Lady Wisdom the blueprint.

“Wisdom is ancient. We cannot make reality up, according to our own likes and dislikes. Wisdom was here first and is deeply embedded in the way reality is designed.”
(from the *Gospel Transformation Bible*, ESV-Proverbs)

Jehovah Witnesses, follow a form of Arianism that **denies** the deity of Jesus Christ. They say Jesus is not eternal God.

[JW] Jesus is called the “wisdom of God” (1 Cor. 1:24 and 30).
Lady Wisdom had a beginning (Proverbs 8:22 and 24).
Therefore, Jesus had a beginning.

The Bible says Jesus is **God**. “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God*” (John 1:1). Jesus always was, He is, and He will be forever (see Heb. 13:8).

Jesus has some similarity to Lady Wisdom (Proverbs 8)

Both **existed** with God before anything else

Both played a role in creation

Jesus is **superior** to Lady Wisdom

Jesus is the Eternal Son of God; Wisdom is an attribute of God

Jesus is the **Creator**; Wisdom witnessed the creation

Life Group Homework

What insight, observation, or principle did you find eye-opening, troubling, or helpful?

1. Where are the following metaphors found in the Bible?

You are the salt of the earth

I am the vine, you are the branches

The name of the LORD is a strong tower

The LORD is my shepherd

The tongue also is a fire

2. Psalm 119 a long poem in praise of _____ .

3. Wisdom is one of God’s communicable attributes, reflected in humans made in His image and redeemed. (Other attributes of God are “non-communicable” and unique to Him.) From the list below, circle the communicable attributes of God. Discuss.

Wisdom

Infinite

All-knowing

All-powerful

Merciful

Unchanging

Holiness

Sovereign

Love

Goodness

Majestic

Truth

Self-existent

Justice

Everywhere present