

Sermon Discussion Questions & Follow-up Notes

January 4, 2026 // Pastor Andrew Keuer (andrew@firstprotestant.com)

Sermon Text: Colossians 1:9-14 Series: "Colossians: A Primary in Wise Spirituality"

Sermon Title: "What is Wisdom?"

Link to sermon: <https://youtu.be/qpR-aaBfig4?t=1509>

Key Points & Observations of the Text

It is suggested to read the passage (Colossians 1:9-14) aloud as a group and then begin by discussing three questions:

- 1) What are some common misconceptions about wisdom in our culture, and how does Paul's understanding of wisdom challenge those notions?
- 2) What do you think about the claim Pastor Andrew mentioned from Francis Collins (in his book *The Road to Wisdom*), that our American culture is generally less wise today than it was 20 years ago?
- 3) Pope John Paul II spoke about wisdom being found in places of need and simplicity. How might this perspective influence our view of progress and success in our own lives?

The big idea: Our biggest need for 2026 is the kind of stabilizing, even, calm WISDOM we see in Jesus. In this passage of Scripture, wisdom arises from a "Father-centered" spirituality, which enables an approach to life that is non-anxious and that finds opportunities to respond to God's presence in everyday situations.

I. Father-Centered Spirituality

- Notice that almost every phrase in this prayer relates to the Father. It is interesting that "Christ-centered" is a common phrase in some Christian circles, as is "Gospel-centered". But here, the Apostle Paul seems to say that a WISE SPIRITUALITY arises from a "Father-centered" spirituality.
- To live "in Christ" means that the perfect love of the Father that is set on His Son is now set on all those who are in Christ (us!). Living in this love requires more than mental cognition – it requires what Jonathan Edwards labeled "religious affections" (i.e., an enduring combination of thought and emotion that goes to the very heart of who we are).
- **Discussion:** How does a Father-centered spirituality provide a buffer from a spirituality of guilt, judgment and spiritual anxiety? How can our sense of belonging and being loved by the Father shift from the periphery of our awareness to our defining center (what Francis Collins called our "core concern")?

II. A "God is in All" Perspective

- The Apostle Paul is driving home through four "all" statements that a wise spirituality recognizes God's involvement in "all things": "all spiritual wisdom & understanding", "pleasing God in all things", "doing all good", "all patience". Recognizing God's involvement in "all things" shifts the way we approach work, relationships and struggles.
- **Discussion:** What is an area of life where God is helping you shift from an *obligation* to *opportunity* mindset?