



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Discernment: Wise Counsel and Discernment

Speaker: Andre Grey, Associate Pastor, New Life East

Scripture: Proverbs 12:15

The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice. (NIV)

Sermon Outline:

As Christians the two questions below should be part of our discernment process as we make extremely important decisions when it comes to discerning God's will for our lives.

1. What do you think Jesus is saying to you at this point in your life, in the context of the challenges and opportunities you are facing?
2. What indicators give you some measure of confidence that it is indeed Jesus speaking to you rather than someone or something else?

We tend to use the ways below to make decisions:

1. Always discerning before deciding.
2. Always deciding but never discerning.
3. Deciding from a place of discernment.

Discernment is good judgment, wisdom, and the ability to distinguish between the sound and unsound, the true and the false, the good and the bad – and also the better from the merely good.

--James Manney

Discernment is the ability to make a distinction between the options we have before us. The Bible is clear on the benefit on seeking counsel and the consequences if we choose to reject it. Call of scripture is that we are to be a people who decide from a place of discernment.

To wisely discern God's will often require a community of wise people.

The three types of counsel below are ways we tend to receive counsel for decisions in our lives.

- **Inviting No Counsel.** Being inward focused. As Christians, God created us to be in community so that we can acknowledge our limits apart from community.
- **Inviting Bad Counsel.** Heading foolish advice. Failing to embrace our limits and looking to gain more and more. As Christians, we are to think thoughtfully about the life that God has given us.
- **Inviting Wise Counsel.** We are to surround ourselves with individuals who can help us be aware of our blind spots and see what we often have a hard time acknowledging and seeing for ourselves.

In Jesus Christ, God has invited you and I into a new family – the family of God. If we want to be a people who are looking to discern God's will for our lives, we need community to help us as we seek wise counsel.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, Andre Grey, Lead Pastor, continues our new series titled *Discernment, How to Discover God's Will*. Today Pastor Andre explores the essential role community and seeking wise counsel play in our decision making when discerning God's will.

Sermon Questions:

1. Do you feel an invitation from Christ in today's scripture passage? Do any of the words resonate with you? If so, why?

2. When it comes to discernment and seeking advice or counsel, what type are you receiving (inviting no counsel, inviting bad counsel or inviting wise counsel)? It is imperative that we surround ourselves with good counsel. Find time this week to journal your responses to these questions, maybe sharing them with your small group or a trusted person in your life.
3. Are you connected to a small group or mid-sized community at New Life? God created us to be in community with one another and we were never meant to live this life alone. If you are not already part of a group at New Life, we invite you to visit our Community webpage here <https://elmhurst.newlife.nyc/find-community/> to see where you might get connected.