

ECC. 8:1-17 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LIFE "UNDER THE THUMB" - ([SERMON MP3](#))

Read Ecclesiastes 8:1. God's wisdom doesn't just fill our minds. It fundamentally changes us. It causes a man's _____ to shine, and the _____ of his face is changed.

- *What factors contribute to a dark or hard face? What does Solomon reveal as the softening agent to a hardened face?*
- *The softening of a face occurs as a person is humbled under the favor of God. Compare Ex. 34:29-35 to 2 Cor. 3:7-18, 4:6. Also, read Is 60:1, Mat. 5:16, 17:3, Heb 1:3.*

God's wisdom makes us humble. Interact with the following statements that show how that is true. Why is humility foundational in each of the following situations?

- *Wisdom enables us to humbly submit to sinful authority.*
- *Wisdom enables us to humbly trust in divine authority.*
- *Wisdom enables us to humbly enjoy our God-given life.*

In this passage, Solomon describes the value of wisdom. Wisdom can sometimes be an ambiguous term for us. How do you define wisdom and where do we get it? Use some of these verses to help: Prov. 1:7, 2:6, 9:10, Ecc. 2:14, Is. 11:12, 1 Cor. 1:24, 30, 2 Tim. 3:15, James 1:5.

- *A helpful definition of wisdom might be: "Wisdom is the God-given ability to see life with rare objectivity and to handle life with rare stability." - Chuck Swindoll*

In Ecclesiastes 8:2, we are commanded to _____ the King's command. His words were written in a time where king's had supreme authority over their subjects. We live in a very different day. But, Solomon's words still apply to each one of us.

- *Who are the "kings" in your life?*
- *Interact with the following statement. "Nothing tests our wisdom like the kings in our lives." Do you agree? What do you think that statement means?*
- *What is a timeless truth that applies to your situation under authority? For example, "God wants me to..."*
- *Is it ever acceptable to disobey authority? Is there ever a time for insubordination? If so, when? Read Exodus 1:17, 20-21, 1 Kings 18:3-4, Acts 4:18-20, Acts 5:29 and develop a working definition guide for handling authority.*

Solomon reminds us in verse 2, that all human authority issues are ultimately divine authority issues. Submission to God should govern all our submission to earthly authority.

