

Drivers of Society

Last week I was asked, as an advisor, to make recommendations to a 'Think Tank' linked to the Bible Society. It is an initiative to enter a conversation of what the world would look like if the drivers of our society sought wisdom as the basis of their decision making.

Ten drivers of society have been identified: Politics, Media, Arts, Business, Sports, Community Service Organizations, Education, Health, Justice and Law. It is planned that the 'Sophia Think Tank' will challenge each of these drivers to consider what a difference a wisdom stance would make to their sector and to make a stand to think wisely about the issues they have to face on a daily basis.

For the people behind the 'Think Tank' it is the Judeo-Christian Scriptures that provide the foundation stone. What difference would it make if you and I engaged with God's wisdom? For example, in business, the decisions we make are often based on profit, income, perhaps keeping the shareholders happy. The so-called triple bottom line has moved business along, yet too often the financial bottom line determines how environmentally and socially responsible we are going to be. God's wisdom challenges that approach. Read the book of Amos.

Education is another driver of our society. Education should not just be about 'getting a job.' Does education help people to look for wisdom and to recognize it when they find it? A forum was convened to answer the question: "Does Australia need a Christian University?" A principal argued: "Yes, because students who were Christians, having completed years one to twelve at a Christian school, were not yet ready to be exposed to a secular educational system!" I believe the education of students at that school was seriously flawed. God's wisdom says education is for:

"gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behaviour, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young . . ." (Proverbs 1:2–5).

Sport is another major driver of our society. I used to be obsessed with sport. I could sit in church and run the game I played yesterday, frame by frame, through my mind. But is sport all about winning or is it just as much about development of the best in a person and a team? In reality, not just on paper? Wisdom seeks answers to these questions. God challenged my approach to sport. Today, if you wanted to play a game of chess with me, once I knew your level, then I'd want to introduce a handicap so that both players have an equal chance of winning.

Let us seek God's wisdom on the drivers of our personal lives.