

This week Dr. Baucom continues his sermon series, ***In and Out***. Let's look at how we are being challenged as Christ's disciples to live differently in the world while not becoming a part of it through Dr. Baucom's sermon "***In the Know, But Not of It***," focusing on the acquisition of knowledge as a gift from God.

1. Why do you think we, as humans, have such a desire to acquire knowledge? Why do you think we have the "right" to know every detail of a thing, situation, story or circumstance? What sort of knowledge/information attracts your attention? Why?

2. **Read and Reflect on 1 Kings 4:29-34.**
 - How was Solomon described? What had God given him?

 - How do you understand Solomon's wisdom to have affected his life?

 - Have you met someone who you felt had this type of God-given wisdom?

 - How do you feel around them? What kind of relationship have you sought to build with them? Why?

3. **Read and Reflect on Ecclesiastes 1:8-18.**
 - What is new under Heaven?

 - According to this passage, what has The Preacher set his mind to seek (vs. 13)?

 - Why do you think it is said there is much grief in much wisdom?

4. In the following passages, what does the "fear of the Lord" lead to?
 - **Proverbs 1:7**

 - **Psalms 111:10**

5. What warning do we receive from **1 Samuel 2:2-3** about what comes out of our mouths? Why do you think we need such a warning? Ever wish you had heeded this warning ... just as something came out of your mouth? Remember that time ... what was the result of your quick tongue, sharing?
 - How hard is it to get back words you have already spoken?

 - What might we be trying to prove when we share our knowledge with others?

 - What do you think our motive is to be?

 - Who is the God of knowledge?

6. **1 Corinthians 8:1-3** speaks of knowledge and Paul gives us a warning concerning knowledge.
 - What does Paul say knowledge can do in us?

 - What can happen when we think, or assume, we *know* something or everything about a matter? What does **verse 2** say it should remind us of about ourselves?

 - What does love have to do with knowledge?

7. **Read 1 Corinthians 1:20-21.** Paul says God has made foolish the wisdom of the world. Why then do we put such a premium on worldly knowledge?

8. **Read and Reflect on Ephesians 3:17-21.**
 - How are we to be rooted and grounded in love?

 - What does Paul say is greater than knowledge?

 - How are we to relate to Christ (vs. 20-21)?

 - Again, what is the relationship between love and knowledge?

 - Are we to be in pursuit of knowledge or Christ?

9. In **James 1:5**, what are we told to do when we need wisdom? Who are we to ask? If we went to this source for our wisdom and knowledge, how might it change and transform us?