

## Not the Way It's Supposed to Be- Study Guide #4

### Chapter 7- Sin and Folly

#### **1- When you think of wisdom, what picture, person, or definition comes to mind?**

- How does the Bible define wisdom?
- On page 115, Plantinga describes the wise as "...mak[ing] music there according to the divine time and key signatures."
  - Can someone musically inclined help flesh out the analogy?
  - How does this relate to wisdom?

Take a look at the Frederick Buechner quote on page 116. "When Jesus says that whoever would save his life will lose it and whoever loses his life will save it, surely he is not making a statement about how, morally speaking, life ought to be. Rather, he is making a statement about how life is."

- Can someone use this teaching of Jesus to illustrate how the wise person would both hear it and implement it in their lives?
- What keeps us from responding wisely to God and his word?
  
- How does discernment fit into our discussion of wisdom?
  
- Let's go back to our original question and see if we can summarize, what does it mean to be wise?

#### **2- In light of biblical wisdom, what is folly?**

- What are the characteristics of fools?
  
- Why does C.S Lewis argue that "There is no contradiction in being a Master of Arts and a fool?"
  - Could one of your professors be a fool? Could someone who never went to college be wise? What makes this possible?*
  
- At what point does folly become sin?
  
- Why is sin the world's most impressive example of folly?
  
- Does this mean that all sinners are fools? Why or why not?
  - Can you think of examples that would warrant this indictment?

#### **3- What does it say about us, if we would rather offend God than offend other humans?**

- Why is it not only wrong but also foolish to offend God?

-How is Satan the epitome of an “ass?”

### **3-What has this chapter taught you about the relationship between sin and folly?**

-How do we conquer sinful folly in us?

-What has it taught you about wisdom?

-Why is the fear of the Lord the beginning of wisdom?

## **Chapter 8- The tragedy of Addiction**

### **1. What is Plantinga’s goal for this chapter?**

-What exactly is an addiction? *What’s the goal of the substance or behavior?*

### **2- What moves an addict to the bait?**

-Where does this longing of the heart come from?

-How have the longings of an addict been perverted? (*What is she really after?*)

-In addictions, how does sin function as a parasite?

### **3-Plantinga argues that the “Self,” in our culture, “...is a sacred object.”**

-What are the social and spiritual implications of seeing the self as sacred?

-How does this feed into sin and addictions?

### **4- Why does addiction form a cycle of repetition?**

-Is an addict responsible for the sins they commit or are they the helpless victims to their longings and desires?

-Why is the only way out of an addiction to go through it?

### **5- How would you describe relationship between sin and addiction?**

-Why does Plantinga appeal to the category of “tragedy” to describe addiction? *What does he hope to gain by employing this word?*

- Why isn’t the answer to overcoming an addiction to simply try harder and believe in yourself?
- How do spiritually healthy people train/curb their longings to avoid addictions?
- What characteristics and dynamics of addiction do all sins share?

### **6- What hope do we have for recovery from sin and addictions?**