

JESUS KNOWS BEST

Colossians 2:3

Even though some people regard the 1950's television show "Father Knows Best" as a simplistic, propagandized view of American life, it nevertheless occupies an important place in our nation's entertainment history. The popular show featured Jim Anderson, a father who would offer sage advice to his children when they would encounter various, scripted troubles.

Regardless of one's opinion about the show, it does draw on a shared value - we prize people whose experience and knowledge give them insights that benefit us. We pay attention when they speak, repeating what they say and following their advice. I find it curious, however, that our tendency to respect and follow experts does not often extend to Jesus.

People commonly identify Jesus as 'loving' or 'serving' or 'merciful', but rarely do they identify him as 'smart'. Paul's comment that Jesus possess "all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge"¹ (*Colossians 2:3*) stands against our common perceptions. This lesson will consider our need to follow Jesus because he knows best and will note some of the features that define his 'smart' way of living.

"All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge"

Paul's letter to the church in Colossae addressed false teachings influencing the church, teachings that devalued Jesus' identity and mission. In response, Paul wrote about Jesus' preeminent identity and its meaning for the lives of the Colossian Christians. Part of his presentation of Jesus' exalted identity revolved around Jesus' wisdom. He, for example, wrote that:

Jesus knows best because he is God, creator, and the
head of the church

Colossians 1:15-20

We do not know best

Colossians 1:21; 2:20-23

¹ All quotes from the Bible come from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version* (ESV Permanent Text Edition, Crossway, 2016) unless otherwise noted.

Jesus' best knowledge remakes us in his image

Colossians 1:24-28; 3:10

Following Jesus' wisdom radically restructures our lives

Colossians 3:9-4:1

Applications

- Jesus' wisdom makes itself known through the changes it creates in our lives, in our character (*Colossians 3:1-17*).
- The changes Jesus' wisdom makes in our character express themselves in our relationships with the people around us; we cannot claim to follow Jesus' wisdom if we do not display changed thinking and behavior in our relationships (*Colossians 3:1-17*).
- Jesus' wisdom upends our world's ways of thinking and our pursuit of his wisdom will create tensions between us and our culture (*cf. Colossians 3:18-4:1*) – we must learn to reject our culture in favor of Jesus.
- Even though embracing Jesus' wisdom creates tensions, it nevertheless brings peace into our lives because it involves submitting ourselves to Jesus' sovereign, benevolent rule (*Colossians 3:15; 1:15-22*).
- Jesus' wisdom inseparably binds to his authority; we cannot reject his wisdom without consequence.

We follow experts but no experts' knowledge can compare to the wisdom Jesus possesses. Let's therefore align ourselves behind Jesus and enjoy the blessings that come from embracing His wisdom and following his rule. Let's allow our lives to become witnesses to his wisdom so we can bring him the glory and honor he deserves.