

Session 61

We left off looking at the 2nd component concerning our edification.

Proverbs 2:6 For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. ⁷ He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: *he is* a buckler to them that walk uprightly. ⁸ He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints. ⁹ Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; *yea*, every good path.

The first component of the effectual working has to do with us having a “spirit of faith” concerning the ability of the curriculum to handle every obstacle we may encounter in our sonship life.

This second component has to do with us being fully persuaded of the Faithfulness of the One Who Wrote the Curriculum. This component is found in vs. 7.

Proverbs 2:7 He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.

Last time we talked about the “sound” wisdom not being just any wisdom or wisdom in general. Anything that is “sound” has the characteristic of having nothing “amiss” and this points to the wisdom that is without corruption, perfectly suited to do its job.

The last phrase mentions a “buckler.” A buckler is a particular kind of shield. The Bible uses the word “shield,” but here, the more precise term of “buckler” tells you something that “shield” cannot. A “shield” was to kneel behind and protect the soldier from distance attacks, such as arrows, spears, slings, etc.

But the buckler was strapped to the arm of the soldier for protection in close, hand to hand combat against another soldier like himself. A skilled warrior was to be an expert in not only offensive weaponry, but also in defensive weaponry. He was trained to utilize his buckler-shield for those times in which he would be engaging in the most grueling aspects of war: hand-to-hand combat. The soldier was to have confidence in it to ward off the blows of his adversary and keep him in the fight until the very end. You can see how having the buckler would instill confidence in the soldier. Even when a soldier was knocked to the ground, it was the buckler that protected him and allowed him to get back on his feet and continue in the fight.

In the same manner, our heavenly Father becomes our protector by means of His sound wisdom. He has “sound wisdom” laid up for us, and His wisdom is more than capable of warding off the blows of the adversary. A soldier seeks to strike an enemy to take him out of the fight, either by wound or death. The aspects of the policy of evil that we will face are meant to make us quit and walk away from our sonship. We can fully engage in our sonship because God’s wise curriculum has capacity to ward off that blow, enabling us to stay in the fight.

I want to emphasize one more time that the policy of evil is not attempting to get people to drop out of church; its goal is to get sons to quit their sonship education.

All we are looking at here in Proverbs is the exhortation. When we get back to Romans 8, you will be given doctrine that is designed to produce an implicit trust in the faithfulness of your heavenly Father. That trust is to such a degree that He is the One you trust above all others, and that He views you as the most trusting person He will ever deal with.

You may already have a trust in Him, in fact, I'm sure you do. But the effectual working of this doctrine will take that trust to a level it has never been before in your life and you are going to need that level of "faith" and "trust" as your sonship progresses and you encounter the oppositions that lie ahead.

Now let's look at the next phrase in vs. 7.

Proverbs 2:7 He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler **to them that walk uprightly**.

"Them that walk uprightly" refers to sons who are steadfastly adhering to their Father's path and their Father's way, and so forth. That is why you get, in the book of Proverbs, the exhortations about staying on His paths and ways and not to be allured by other paths and ways.

For example, look at the mention of paths and ways in Proverbs 2:12-20.

Proverbs 2:12 To deliver thee from **the way of the evil man**, from the man that speaketh froward things; ¹³ Who leave **the paths of uprightness**, to walk in **the ways of darkness**; ¹⁴ Who rejoice to do evil, *and* delight in the frowardness of the wicked; ¹⁵ Whose **ways are crooked**, and *they froward in their paths*: ¹⁶ To deliver thee from the strange woman, *even* from the stranger *which* flattereth with her words; ¹⁷ Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God. ¹⁸ For her house inclineth unto death, and **her paths** unto the dead. ¹⁹ None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of **the paths of life**. ²⁰ That thou mayest walk **in the way** of good *men*, and keep **the paths of the righteous**.

Let's talk about that word "forward" for a moment. It is true that something that is "froward" has an element of the perverse to it, but this is not the full meaning of the term. The word "froward" comes from two words: "from-ward" which means "to run in a different direction."

When Proverbs talks about:

- the evil man "that speaketh froward things" (vs. 12)
- "the forwardness of the wicked" – (vs. 13)
- "they froward in their paths" – (vs. 15)

...it is warning the son of the allurements of other paths and ways.

So, "them that walk uprightly" refers to those who are staying on their Father's paths and ways. Why does the verse qualify the provision? You get the idea that He is a buckler **ONLY** for those who are "walking in the Father's paths." And that idea would be correct.

Firstly, there is no other “path” you can take that will produce in you what your Father’s curriculum will produce. There is no other “way,” no matter how attractive it may appear to be, that can accomplish what your Father’s sound wisdom can accomplish. Therefore, it is only for those who are “walking uprightly,” (walking according to the Father’s paths and ways) that He (by His wisdom) functions as a buckler.

There is another reason for this “qualifying” phrase of “to them that walk uprightly.” As a son, you can stop your sonship education is a split-second. You can choose to walk away and never come back. It is a choice that you can make and God is not going to “twist our arm” to make you reconsider. That is why you are to know the value of what is being offered to you from the outset. But if you do walk away from your sonship, if you “leave the paths of the righteous,” that wisdom will not be a buckler for you. To walk away from the path of the righteous is to walk away from the wisdom.

“How can that be,” you may ask. You may have intellectually learned parts of the “wisdom,” but that does not mean that it has effectually worked in you. And you have to have both. That is why just showing up for Bible class is not enough. That is why “Honest Attendance” is more than just showing up in body, listening to the sessions and memorizing the answers. There has to be a “spirit of faith” in all the Father tells you. You have to have implicit trust in His Faithfulness as the One who wrote the curriculum.

With this being a reality, we should be ready to respond positively and properly to everything that our Father will teach us throughout the curriculum for our sonship education; implicitly believing everything He teaches us and confidently operating upon it.

As our Father, He should be the MOST TRUSTWORTHY PERSON we know and we should be THE MOST TRUSTING PERSON with whom He has ever dealt with. As we progress through our sonship education and edification, our Father should not ever need to say to us, “O ye of little faith. Why do ye not believe?” He should never have to reprove us for being “weak in faith” regarding what He teaches us!

This brings us to the **3rd component** of the Effectual Working:
THE VALUE OF ITS EFFECTUAL WORKING.

Proverbs 2:8 He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.

By telling you that He (your Father) will “keep the paths of judgment” and “preserve the way of his saints,” this final component is meant to produce, within the son, a valuing of the curriculum to such a degree that he will pursue it regardless of the cost. In other words, nothing will compare with succeeding in your sonship education and edification. And I mean to say both of these because in Proverbs 2:8 is about your edification and not just your education. In other words, the son is to value the ability of the curriculum to change him and make him godly.

From the very beginning, you will undergo a series of adjustments to your attitude. One of the most important pertains to your attitude toward the value of what your Father is teaching and training you to do. You will find that the Father will address this issue of “seeing the value” multiple times throughout your sonship, as you advance through the curriculum.

If you recall, you were first faced with knowing something about the value of what this education holds out to you back in Proverbs 1 when we first began to look at the table of contents.

Proverbs 1:2 **To know** wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;

The “to know” had to do with two issues:

- Knowing the educational curriculum exists
- Knowing the value of getting that educational curriculum

The next time you were given to consider the “value of this education” was in the 3rd component of your commitment to the education: that the education would be your Top Priority.

Proverbs 2:4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;

Proverbs 3:14 For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. ¹⁵ She *is* more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.

Proverbs 8:10 Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold. ¹¹ For wisdom *is* better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

Proverbs 8:19 My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver.

Proverbs 10:20 The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked is little worth.

Proverbs 16:16 How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!

If you haven’t perceived it yet, the Father is ‘up to something’ in checking on the son’s commitment because this is all driving at a particular issue that has to be powerfully produced and generated within the son’s own heart.

So what is it? What is it that the Father is ‘up to’? What is the particular issue that He is driving at? What is that particular issue that has to be powerfully produced within the son’s heart?

Let me give you a hint. Everything about your commitment to the Education (in all 3 components) and your commitment to the Edification (in all 3 issues) is meant to produce something in you. What do you think these commitments are meant to generate in you?

The answer is: LOVE; a genuine, godly love for your Father’s education and edification. If you come to the place where you genuinely love this education and what it effectually works in you, then nothing will displace it. And if you do not love this education, love this curriculum and love this process, then there is something wrong with you. When I talk about having a “godly love” for your sonship, I’m talking about you having the same love for sonship that your Father has for it. Simply put, your sonship education & edification is to become the ‘love of your life.’

If you doubt this is what is being generated in the son, let me point you at a couple of passages in the exhortations.

Proverbs 4:1 Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. ² For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law. ³ For I was my father's son, tender and only *beloved* in the sight of my mother. ⁴ He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live. ⁵ Get wisdom, get understanding: forget *it* not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. ⁶ Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: **love her**, and she shall keep thee.

Proverbs 8:18 Riches and honour are with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness. ¹⁹ My fruit *is* better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver. ²⁰ I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment: ²¹ That I may **cause those that love me to inherit** substance; and I will fill their treasures.

Do you recall an “inheritance” being mentioned in Romans 8? It’s over there that you are “an heir of God” and a “joint-heir with Christ.”

Proverbs 2:8 He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.

Now, let’s examine the first phrase in vs. 8.

“He keepeth” = to guard from danger.

“The paths of judgment” = to determine, in general, right from wrong.

God’s part in the Edification is that He will, through the curriculum, guard the education’s ability to equip the son to know right from wrong.

Review of the Edification:

Nature: it is perfect, it will prepare me/equip me

Trustworthiness of Father: He is most trusted, I am most trusting

Value of Edification: this is #1, it is the love of my life

This is also something an earthly father accomplishes as he establishes his son in his sonship status and prepares him for receiving his sonship education. One of the very important issues a father wants operating within his son’s heart, as he teaches his son all about the upcoming vocation, concerns the various glories of his sonship life. While some earthly jobs have more “glory” to them than others, there is nothing that compares to the “glories” of our heavenly vocation. In fact, learning about these ‘glories’ is one of the reasons why a son cries, “Abba, Father” more and more.

These glories displace any importance that the son has placed upon any worldly desires and pursuits and replace them with the desires and pursuits of his sonship life.

I want to take you to an event in the life of the Lord Jesus that illustrates the point I am making here. The context is during one of the trials of Jesus where they are attempting to “trump up evidence against Him.” They tried to get witnesses against Him, but even they couldn’t get their stories to agree.

Matthew 26:62 And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee? ⁶³ But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. ⁶⁴ Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. ⁶⁵ Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy.

To set the stage for what you are looking at, just know that when a person gets to the time of their death, all the trivial things tend to drop away. What really was important to them comes to the front. Therefore, I've never heard of any man, at the point of death, saying that he wished he had spent a little more time at the office. Or that he had spent more time bowling. Or that he had made an extra million dollars.

I want you to notice what is in Jesus' mind as He is about to be put to death. Almost brushing aside the admission that He is the Christ, He focuses instead on "sitting on the right hand of power and coming the clouds of heaven." What are those?

Those are the "glories" of His own sonship life! He focused on those because His sonship life and glories associated with it truly was "the love of His life."

The glories of your sonship life will outshine all the glitter and luster of what this world can offer. You will perceive your sonship life to be so valuable and worthy of pursuing that it exceeds all others. It truly will be a thing to be considered to be "priceless!" And, as I said before, part of what makes it that way, the reason you see the value in it that you do, is in great part due to the "glories" associated with your sonship life. That is what drives the son to respond positively and properly to his father's teachings (desiring to obtain these things at all costs) even in preference to the approval and accolades of men or even over escaping man's reproach or persecution.

When we look at our life in this world, what does this world have to offer that compares with receiving our vocational education and training for our heavenly, everlasting vocation that belongs to our eternal lives?

Where is there, anywhere in this world, the happiness, satisfaction, and contentment that compares with godly happiness and godly satisfaction and godly contentment that are produced in us by the effectual working of our sonship education?

What kind of relationship or intimacy of fellowship can this world offer that compares with that which we can have with God our Heavenly Father by means of our sonship education and sonship prayer?

Where is there an object for our heart's desire that even comes close to the ultimate objective of our sonship lives: being conformed to the image of God's Son? (Rom. 8:29)

David's words to his son Solomon are true: "wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it."

So therefore, along with:

- 1) Having strong convictions and confidence regarding the capacities (the strength, power, and might) of our Father's curriculum to do its job (which comes from being confronted with The Nature of the Curriculum)
- 2) Having implicit faith (a "spirit of faith") in whatever our Father teaches us in (which comes from being confronted with the Trustworthiness of God our Father who Wrote the Curriculum);

... our positive and proper response to what our Father teaches us should also include:

- 3) Desiring above all else to obtain the sonship glories and being willing to obtain them at all cost so that it becomes the very 'love of our life' (which comes from the Value of the Effectual Working of our Father's sonship curriculum)

Now that you have looked at these "2 sides of the same coin" (the "2 E's" of "education" and "edification"), you should realize that what has been described is Phase 1 of your Level 1 education. This is the minimum requirement before you go on to Phase 2, where you actually begin your sonship education.

All we have done thus far is "orient" you to these things. Shortly, we will return to the book of Romans to get the doctrine which will establish these things in your inner man (contained in Romans 8:16-39). We refer to this as your Sonship Establishment. By that title I mean that you aren't just being told about it (as in oriented to it), but it is actually being accomplished in you (or rather, you are being established in it).

This now takes us to the last item we must cover before we move back into Romans 8. This will take us to Proverbs 1 where we have already located the "table of contents" for sonship adoption education.

Proverbs 1:² To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;
³ To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; ⁴ To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. ⁵ A wise *man* will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels: ⁶ To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.

Take a look at the diagram that outlines the sonship curriculum.

Having now covered the things in verse 2, we now move to the next verse which is Phase 2 of Level 1.

Proverbs 1:3 To receive **the instruction** of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;

Once you've gone through Phase 1, you've properly come "To know..." and "to perceive..." and now you begin to "receive".

Just to underscore the things we have been saying up to this point, it's not until you are ready, willing and zealous about getting the education (all the things that Phase 1 accomplished (:2) to adjust your attitude so that you see this education exactly the same way your Father sees it) are you ready to 'receive the instruction' in all the rest of the curriculum from your Father.

We often think about “instruction” as “a set of instructions or directions” sort of like you would get when assembling a piece of furniture.

The OED Definition: the imparting of knowledge or skill; making known to a person what he is required to do.

That’s one side of the coin (so to speak), but there’s another aspect to instruction that’s vital to coming to a real understanding and appreciation of it, especially in the context of this sonship education you’re now getting from your Father.

Notice that vs. 3 did not say “teaching.” Teaching is the more proper word to use when dealing with strict academics (science/art), not to mention the fact that you don’t even need a person at all to be taught. For example, history can teach you things.

But instruction is personal. It is the most excellent word to use when referring to a child being taught by his parent/parents; a son being properly instructed by his father.

The critical shade of meaning of “instruction” that vs. 3 is driving at is that when you dealing with instruction, you’re dealing with a body of information that you do NOT innately possess, you’re going to be getting knowledge that you do NOT just automatically know, and you’re going to be taught things that do not naturally fit in your thinking and so adjustments are going to have to be made. That is the concept that we run into in Romans 12:1-2 where the mind is going to start being renewed.

The critical thing about receiving instruction is that you are now going to get information that up to this time you are ignorant of. We need to put both concepts together in order to really get the appreciation of what it means for us to receive instruction in all 4 of those following areas mentioned in (:3) - wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity.

When you’re talking about receiving instruction in this context of our sonship education, it’s:

- 1) The receiving of directions or a body of information on how to do something that you don’t know how to do; with the ability to do something that you don’t naturally have the ability to do; and,
- 2) This body of information (or instruction that I’m receiving) on how to do something, is information that I was previously totally ignorant of.

As your mind begins the process of being renewed, the things that used to guide your thinking:

- Old information (that now has no value whatsoever)
- Information acquired from the world
- The wisdom of this world
- Have to be recognized for the worthlessness that they are
- Are all going to have to be replaced

This “instruction” of vs. 3 is going to enable you to do some things you have never done before. You may or may not realize it, but this is a huge issue now for you as a son.

The whole reason why you need instruction and why that instruction is essential is because you're going to now have to put some things together that enables you to do some things that you've never done before in your life. That's what's happening in Phase 2 of Level 1.

That's the gist of what it means "To receive the instruction of." The son is going to have some information given to him that is going to teach him how to do some things that, without this instruction, he's not going to be able to do them, at least not to the emulation of his Father.

Now we need to see what those things are. As we observe these things, please remember that they have been chosen and arranged by the Father, who knows all about the entire program and curriculum, who functions in just this same way Himself, who has proven that it works. In other words, He's been successful at it and now He's going to perfectly instruct you, His son, to do just what He does in His own business.

Proverbs 1:3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;

There are 4 components to what you are to receive the instruction of: "wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity."

Before going in to the details of what each of the 4 things mean, in the context they're given, as you just look at them "on the surface," what is it that they are giving you the ability to do that you've never done before?

While all 4 terms are not the same in that they do have essential differences, at the same time, they are all closely related. They all have something in common, as far as them all being spoken about within the context of this one objective to Phase 2 of Level I of sonship edification.

You have to think of them having a commonness to them, in that, they are going to give the son a particular capacity when he receives them. That is, they give the son an ability to do something he has never done before and which he never had the natural ability to do. What is that ability?

By receiving the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity, **the son is given the capacity of godly decision-making; the acquiring of decision-making skills.**

You're going to receive instruction for making either wise decisions; or just decisions; or judgmental decisions; or equitable decisions. As you are educated in these 4 areas, you're going to come to appreciate that these 4 areas (wisdom, justice, judgment, and equity) encompass every decision you make as an adopted son of your heavenly Father.

This is a huge issue, for the unsaved and saved alike. These skills allow you to "know the will of God" in any situation. Before, that was a matter of prayer for you, which proves that you don't possess these things naturally.

But there is something else you need to understand about these 4 decision-making skills. Wisdom, justice, judgment, and equity aren't just the decision-making skills that are expected in a son's life (although they most certainly are that), but more than that, receiving the instruction

of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity produces the abilities of a KING or a PRINCE or a GOVERNOR or someone in governmental ruler-ship and authority to do his job.

If he's going to be good and skillful at what he does, a governor or ruler has got to have wisdom, justice, judgment, and equity operating in him. Also, he has to be instructed in each and every one of these things so as to produce the corresponding decision-making skill.

What's remarkable about this is that, your Heavenly Father, knowing that He's going to be placing you in a position of governing-type responsibility/authority in the creature, starts you off with immediately learning the skills you are going to need when you function out there! This is your vocational training.

It's interesting that, in the Bible, when you find the issues of justice and judgment, you often find them together. Usually, they are being used as descriptive of either God in His judging as King, or talking about someone like Solomon in his judging as king or David in judging as king. If you recall, what you're looking at here in the book of Proverbs is David instructing his son Solomon in all 4 of these decision-making skills, all of which have practical and essential uses for a son in his sonship life. But more than that, Solomon (and David, too) aren't just your 'run-of-the-mill sons' (so to speak). Both, David and Solomon, are going to be utilized by God as the illustrative examples of fully educated sons in Israel's program. Both of them are KINGS, both are rulers in Authority and they are rulers in authority doing the very business of their Heavenly Father as King of Israel!

Even if all you were appreciating here are the things pertaining to Israel's program, when you look at the remnant of Israel during the time of the fulfillment of God's program with them, their hope is to have a measure of participation with their Messiah (The Lord Jesus Christ) and the 12 apostles in that kingdom. (Governmental authority in the Kingdom.) That's why you will find, in the gospel accounts (as well as the book of the Revelation), information about holding out to the members of the remnant of Israel (and by their being faithful to the end; fidelity through that day of wrath) the hope of them reigning with the Messiah; the ability to have a position of governmental authority.

The remnant, by the effectual working of the books of Hebrews—Jude, are going to be given instruction as sons, so that they can make wise, just, judgmental, and equitable decisions, which are the kind of decisions they are to make if they are ever to have a position of governmental authority.

You, as an adopted, adult son, as a member of the church, the body of Christ and as an adopted son of God your Father, have a hope. But what is your hope? Your hope is that you're going to have this heavenly vocation; this governmental authority and reigning in powerful positions in the creature' that you are going to function as the 'brains' (so to speak) of that creature, making wise, just, judgmental, and equitable decisions. And this should be incredibly exciting to you!

Because when, for instance, we see what the instruction in wisdom is all about, as we go over to our epistles (Romans) and get the six components that make up our instruction in wisdom (and that gets written on your heart and effectually works in your inner man), then you are going to view all that with the 'eyes of understanding' in such a way that none of it is insignificant to you.

You'll see that in every component of it, is the information and instruction you're going to need and to make use of. You're going to realize that, although this may seem insignificant now, you're going to realize that you're going to take this wisdom that you've just been instructed in and in my life, make a wise decision that manifests to my Father and to the angelic realm, skillfulness in one aspect of the kind of decisions I'm going to have to make when I'm a joint-heir with Christ.

That same thing is put on display when you make "just" decisions and "judgmental" decisions and "equitable" decisions. You are manifesting to principalities that you possess the skills necessary to govern their realm!

In light of all this, you should now recognize that each and every thing Paul teaches us, has all this kind of sonship objective and sonship goal in mind. What he's teaching has to do with either sonship wisdom, or justice, or judgment, or equity, so that every time I make a decision along 1 of those 4 lines, I am actually manifesting the very skill that I need to have if I'm ever going to labor with my Father in His business of governing the heavenly realm.

Later on, you'll see how that the sonship decisions you are going to make (most of them don't fall neatly into 1 of these 4), but the wise man, and the man of understanding is able to make many sonship decisions that are combinations of these 4!

So, just to make sure we are "on the same page" with all this, these 4 descriptive terms that form the instruction we are to receive in Phase 2 of Level I of our sonship education, are all descriptive of the choices and decisions you will have to make in your life right here and right now, AND, at the exact same time, they are also descriptive of your future actions as a governmental ruler in the heavenly places.

It would be accurate to say that for most of us, we are no governmental ruler right now. But your Father knows that you are to be such in the heavenly realm (creature). In order for that to be, you are going to have to be prepared and skilled and trained and practiced and tested and apprenticed, (a journeyman, if you will), and experienced.

The bulk of the decisions you're going to have to make as a son of your Heavenly Father, right here and right now on this earth, are going to be either:

- wise or foolish decisions
- just vs. unrighteous decisions
- judgmental vs. decisions that lack properly evaluation of the facts
- equitable decisions vs. self-centered, selfish decisions

In the long run, becoming skilled in, while these 4 areas of decision-making are all necessary for being a fully educated & edified son of God your Father, they all are equally necessary for being in a position of a governmental ruler.

What I'm getting at is this: what may seem like all these little, trivial decisions that I'm going to be confronted with (especially as you go through our curriculum in Romans 12-15), you should appreciate that it's not merely an issue of being good (i.e., not sinning), or even being righteous (though it is all that), or even an issue of, thinking that you are an adult son with all this freedom and liberty to make whatever choice you want.

What you're going to appreciate is that, "ok, I've got all this liberty, but when faced with this particular decision: what would be the wise thing to do; or what would be the just thing; or the proper judgmental thing to do; what would be the equitable thing to do?"

And you will think that way because each time you make a decision according to these things, you are actually **engaging in laboring with God my Father in His business!** And this should 'flip your lid' so to speak, because as much as it seems like you're making a simple, personal, (and in many cases an unseen, unheard, unnoticed decisions), when I do make decisions with this kind of acquired skill, I'm actually putting on display the excellency of the power of God in the sense of, "I was once ignorant of this before I received the instruction, but now having received the instruction of my Father, I took it to heart, I then applied it to the details of my life, and I manifested that upon receiving the instruction from my Father, I made the exact same decision He would, even if it is a little thing."

And what you need to realize is that those angelic powers are amazed and greatly impacted by that because they know what you're doing. They know you're getting the power and capacity and ability and might and skills to one day rule and function in the creature as it was supposed to function before sin ever entered into the picture. And when that gets seen, there is a real impact; a glory a grandeur and a magnificence that is seen and felt in the heavenly places!

That's should be incredibly exciting! Do you know what that does? That elevates everything in the details of our lives whereby all that we ever do, can be a manifestation of and an emulation of our Heavenly Father. In light of that, you are to always remember that the curriculum is never divorced from the vocational training for my operations with my Father in the creature out in those heavenly places.

Now, let's look at each one of these 4 and gain some appreciation of what each one of them means in connection with the context of us being educated as sons of our Father.