

THE CHARACTER OF A STEWARD

Mario Denton and Handré de Jongh



Mario is an industrial psychologist, international teacher and acts as visiting professor. He also has two counselling diplomas and two master's degrees, (M Econ and MBA) and completed his PhD as well as DBA in Organisational Behaviour and Business Administration. He has presented People Management practices 44 times consecutively to MBA students and trained about 2000 participants of which 300 MBA students in Emotional Intelligence. He is currently the Director of the Crown Marketplace Institute as well as the Director for FCCI (The Fellowship for Companies for Christ International)



Handré holds a BA in Theology as well as a Hons in Psychology. He served as a Pastor for 14 years and held the position of School Principal for 5 years prior to joining Crown in 2005 in a full time capacity. He currently serves as the National Director of Crown SA.

“I fall, I stand still ... I trudge on, I gain a little ... I get more eager and climb higher and begin to see the widening horizon. Every struggle is a victory.”

- Helen Keller

How to work through these radio talks

Purpose of these radio talks

Please note: This is only radio talks for self study and not to be released in any other format due to copy right restrictions.

Sources and Full acknowledgement:

Primary sources

The Power for true success: How to build character in your life

Secondary

Crown Stewardship material

The money devotional from Mark LLoydbottom

CBMC weekly notes and specifically the reflection notes

Biblical Principles for releasing Financial Provision by Frank Damazio and Rich Brott

The Treasure Principle by Randy Alcorn

15. DISCERNMENT vs Shortsightedness

Discernment is the ability to distinguish between good and evil, in order to make wise decisions.

Afrikaans	Definisie	Alternatiewe
Onderskeidingsvermoë vs. kortsigtigheid	Om die werklike redes waarom dinge gebeur te identifiseer en te verstaan.	

Definition

The concept of discernment “to hear, understand, perceive”; “to know, to recognize, to consider”; and “to separate mentally, to distinguish.” to discriminate, to make a distinction, to decide.”

What Are We to Discern?

When God told Solomon to ask for anything he wanted, Solomon asked for discernment.

“Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart . . . that I may discern between good and bad” (I Kings 3:9). Gee my die gehoorsaamheid aan U dat volk reg sal regeer en in alles insig sal he want wie kan uit homself hierdie groot volk van U regeer

(Hebrews 5:14). The word *senses* refers to our organs of perception: the eyes, ears, nose, tongue, hands, mind, and heart. By constant exercise, we are to increase their ability to make fine distinctions between good and evil.

The Importance of Discerning Between Good and Evil

In Scripture, the opposite of holiness is uncleanness, as indicated by the following passages:

- “God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness” (I Thessalonians 4:7). God het ons nie geroep om onsedelik te lewe nie, maar om heilig te lewe

You is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy” (I Peter 1:14–16).

“ Discernment is the power to interpret what we see and hear.” —Oswald Chambers

Discernment is the ability to see the hand of God in every circumstance and to trust His intentions through each one. *“All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”—Romans 8:28*

Discernment vs. Judgment

1. One who discerns examines his own life. One who judges overlooks similar faults in himself.
2. One who discerns checks out all the facts. One who judges forms opinions and then looks for supporting evidence.
3. One who discerns deals privately with another person’s failures. One who judges condemns publicly.

How Do We Gain Discernment?

The answer is contained in Solomon’s request of the Lord. “Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart . . . that I may discern between good and bad” (I Kings 3:9). An understanding heart is a “hearing heart.” It listens to the voice of conscience, the words of Scripture, and the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

In James 1:5, we are urged to ask for wisdom and are assured that God will give it to all who ask for it in faith. We can, therefore, expect that as Solomon was granted his request, so we will be granted a similar one. As we exercise our senses in making each decision, our discernment will increase.

The tragic experience of those who reject the truth is that they are deceived. “They received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie” (II Thessalonians 2:10–11).

What Are the Indicators of a Judgmental Spirit?

If the failures of others decrease our concern for the faults we know we have and instead improve our opinions of ourselves, then we are being judgmental. We reveal a judgmental spirit when we share the failures of another with those who are not part of the solution. Bitterness, the mention of past failures, and a desire for vengeance are also signs of a judgmental spirit.

How much discernment do you have?

- Do you ask God for an understanding heart to discern between good and bad?
- Do you dedicate your body to God as a temple of the Holy Spirit?
- Do you ask God to remove anything in your life that would hinder you from hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit?
- Do you listen to both sides of a story before making conclusions?
- Do you evaluate the benefits of God's letting something happen?
- Do you consider a person's life and background before making a judgment?
- When you see someone making a wrong decision, do you desire to help?

16. DISCRETION vs Simplemindedness

Discretion is using wisdom to avoid damaging attitudes, words, and actions and to give insightful counsel.

Afrikaans	Definisie	Alternatiewe
Oordeelkundigheid vs. swaksinnigheid	Die erkenning en vermyding van woorde, dade en houdings wat onaanvaarbare gevolge kan hê.	Oordeelsvermoë

Definition

Avoids damaging situations, so a prudent person understands cause-and-effect sequences and acts accordingly. "A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished" (Proverbs 22:3). 'n Verstandige mens sien onheil kom en vermy dit; onervare mense loop oop oë daarin en boet daarvoor

"Every prudent man dealeth with knowledge: but a fool layeth open his folly" (Proverbs 13:16). Alles wat 'n verstandige mens doen. Word met kennis gedoen wie nie wysheid het nie, begaan een dwaasheid na die ander"

The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way: but the folly of fools is deceit" (Proverbs 14:8). Die wysheid van die verstandige mens wys vir hom 'n duidelike koers aan'; die dwaasheid van die dwase mens maak alles vals

Some further characteristics of prudent behavior are:

- **Creative skill**—“I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions” (Proverbs 8:12).
- **Good judgment**—“A prudent man covereth shame” (Proverbs 12:16).
- **Caution in speaking**—“A prudent man concealeth knowledge: but the heart of fools proclaimeth foolishness” (Proverbs 12:23). ‘n Verstandige mens loop nie te koop met sy kennis nie, goddeloses beleef ramp op ramp
- **Initiative in learning**—“The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge” (Proverbs 18:15). ‘n Mens met insig doen kennis op, wyse mense hou hulle ore oop vir kennis
- **Investigation of Facts**—“The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going” (Proverbs 14:15). Wie ervaring kortkom, glo alles wat gese word, ‘n verstandige mens oorweeg elke tree wat hy gee
- **Openness to reproof**—“He that regardeth reproof is prudent” (Proverbs 15:5). ‘n Dwaas verag wat sy vader hom leer; wie hom laat tereg wys is verstandig

The Importance of Discretion

Discretion, when properly used, will protect a man’s health, wealth, and wisdom. “Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee” (Proverbs 2:11). Oordeelkundigheid sal oor jou wag hou, en verstandigheid sal jou bewaak

.1. Discretion develops and exercises an understanding heart.

An understanding heart is also a listening and obedient heart. “My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding: *“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.”*—Proverbs 25:11

“ ’Tis better to be silent and be thought a fool, than to speak and remove all doubt.” —Abraham Lincoln

Discretion is knowing when it is best to say nothing at all.

When you figure out an answer, learn to wait for someone to request it. A simple man opens his mouth and confirms his foolishness, but a discreet man keeps silent and is considered wise.

“Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.” —Proverbs 17:28

2. Discretion distinguishes right from wrong and chooses right.

Discretion knows what attitudes, words, and actions are right, honorable, and just and accordingly acts upon them. “A good man sheweth favour, and lendeth: he will guide his affairs with discretion. Surely he shall not be moved for ever: the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour” (Psalm 112:5–6, 9).

3. Discretion treasures and uses wisdom.

To treasure something is to guard it, to cherish it, and to delight in it. “My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion: So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck. Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble. When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet” (Proverbs 3:21–24).

4. Discretion recognizes and responds to the motives of people.

Those who have wicked and deceptive motives should be avoided. Solomon became successful and famous because he had wisdom, understanding, and discretion. However, near the end of his life, he lost his discretion, and his heart was drawn away by immoral women.

5. Discretion turns knowledge into wise counsel.

Proverbs was written “to know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment, and equity

6. Discretion has a spirit of wisdom and walks in it.

Joseph, one of Scripture’s most outstanding role models, exercised discretion. He had a listening and obedient ear to his father, he used discretion in responding to the wicked and lustful motives of Potiphar’s wife, and he demonstrated discretion when he gave the following wise counsel to Pharaoh.

“A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished.” —Proverbs 27:12 ‘n verstandige mens sien onheil kom en sorg dat dit hom nie tref nie, onervare mense loop oop oë daarin en boet daarvoor

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.” —James 1:19

7. Discretion controls destructive emotions.

A person may have wisdom in giving counsel to others but lack the ability to control his own emotions of fear, frustration, and anger. However, “the discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression” (Proverbs 19:11). ‘n Verstandige mens beteuel sy humeur en stel sy eer daarin om vergewensgesind te wees

How discreet are you?

- Do you know how to wisely evaluate an activity?
- Do you say what is on your mind without first evaluating its effect on others?
- Do you welcome reproof from those who see what you do or say wrong things?
- Do you learn from others’ mistakes so that you do not repeat them?
- Do you stand alone for doing right and avoid all appearance of evil?
- Do you choose your friends on the basis of their wisdom rather than their popularity?
- Do you refrain from spreading gossip, slander, and damaging reports?