

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Common Sense

"The three great essentials to achieve anything worthwhile are: Hard work, Stick-to-itiveness, and Common sense. – Thomas A. Edison

"Common sense is not so common." – Voltaire

"It is a thousand times better to have common sense without education than to have education without common sense." – Robert Green Ingersoll

"Common sense is genius dressed in its working clothes." – Ralph Waldo Emerson

"There is nothing more uncommon than common sense." – Frank Lloyd Wright

Common Sense has been defined as, "Good sense and sound judgment in practical matters." Likely we think that everyone uses common sense in their decisions, but sadly that is not the case. Even among the most educated in our society we find very few exercise it.

Much of what is written in the book of Proverbs can well be described as common sense. Others will say that it contains good old horse sense. That is actually an American colloquial expression some believed was derived from the quality of the animal, and others with those who dealt with the horse, be it a coachman or hostler (one who takes care of horses).

Sometimes common sense carries with it matters which seem obvious. For example, "don't put your hand on a hot stove." "Don't touch a bench or table after it has been freshly painted." If you even look at warning labels sold on popular products, there are warnings present that you shouldn't have to tell someone. "Don't touch the chain saw blade when it is running," or, "do not use hairdryer in bathtub."

If you look in Proverbs, you can find things that seem rather obvious. "Hatred stirs up strife" (Prov. 10:12). "The fear of the Lord prolongs days" (Prov. 10:27). "A talebearer reveals secrets" (Prov. 11:13). "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes" (Prov. 12:15). "Evil pursues sinners" (Prov. 13:21). "A quick tempered man acts foolishly" (Prov. 14:17). "He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house" (Prov. 15:27). "Honest weights and scales are the Lord's" (Prov. 16:11).

Obviously, there are many proverbs that we would regard as being common sense. Regretfully, not everyone sees these concepts in that light. Sometimes people have to learn the hard way. Just as children can be stubborn and hard-hearted, so too those who should know better show a definite lack of common sense.

Be grateful for those who have the ability to act and reason beyond education. We may indeed learn concepts, but it is what we do with what we learn that really matters.