

"A prudent question is one-half of wisdom." – Francis Bacon

"The important thing is not to stop questioning." – Albert Einstein

"No man really becomes a fool until he stops asking questions." – Charles P. Steinmetz

"...Plain question and plain answer make the shortest road out of most perplexities." – Mark Twain, *Life on the Mississippi*

Is there anything wrong with asking questions? Notice, I just asked you one! How can we expect to have room to grow and prosper in knowledge and wisdom if we refuse to ask questions?

Questions come in all sorts of ways. Some are for the purpose of obtaining knowledge, some rhetorical to make a point, and some are downright ridiculous. Let's consider all three for a moment.

A question for the purpose of obtaining knowledge is a very wise move. On one occasion, on the Day of Pentecost, a noted Jewish feast, we have the record of Peter's sermon in Acts 2 in which he revealed that the Jews had crucified Christ. When they heard this, "they were pricked" or "cut to the heart" (Acts 2:37). This caused them to ask the question, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" It was not asked for any other purpose than to learn the answer to this horrible situation they found themselves in. They were seeking information and Peter revealed the importance of repenting and being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

Sometimes questions are asked that are rhetorical in nature; for instance, "For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols?" (2 Cor. 6:13-16). Obviously, there is no agreement with these things. It is an understood answer and it is spoken of in this manner to call attention to the fact that there is no fellowship or agreement with these things.

Questions also can be posed that are just plain silliness. For instance, "Did Adam have a belly button?" Does one really care? Is such knowledge crucial to life's challenges? It is a question that is simply asked with humor that really serves no valuable purpose.

Generally speaking, questions are good and vital to our advancement in the kingdom of God. You cannot grow in knowledge (2 Pet. 3:18) unless we ask the right questions, and seek out the right answers. The answers are there if we will but apply ourselves.