

**Sustaining Wisdom**  
**Ecclesiastes 7:15-8:1**  
**The Divine Disruption, 6**  
**Dr. Ted Wueste**

**Righteousness provides no guarantees in this life ...** 7:15-18

"there is a righteous man who perishes/there is a wicked man who prolongs his life"

**So, we are often tempted to ...**

- ... adopt a self-righteous approach to life. v. 16  
"Be not overly righteous, and do not make yourself too wise"
- ... believe that righteousness is irrelevant to our lives. v. 17  
"Be not overly wicked, neither be a fool"

**However, we should ...**

- ... abandon all but a humble relationship with God. v. 18  
"for the one who fears God shall come out *with* both of them"

**Living humbly flows from ...** 7:19-29

- ... *accepting* our inability to live a righteous life. v. 19-24  
"surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins"
- ... *admitting* our weakness to the allure of sin. v. 25-26  
"He who pleases God escapes her, but the sinner is taken by her"
- ... *acknowledging* our propensity to search for life outside of God. v. 27-29  
"God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes"

**The resulting brokenness leads to a softened heart.** 8:1

"a man's wisdom makes his face shine and the hardness of his face is changed"

**Definitions:**

"Do we believe this statement, that the things we criticize in others we are guilty of ourselves? The reason we see hypocrisy and fraud and unreality in others is because they are all in our own hearts." Oswald Chambers