



March 10, 2021

We Don't Know What We Don't Know

Sunday we read an excerpt from Paul's letter to the church in Corinth where he says, For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Just this year Adam Grant came out with a book, *The Power of Knowing What you Don't Know*. It's worth looking at if only for the one-liners such as, "Don't believe everything you think" and "if knowledge is power, knowing what you don't know is wisdom.

Grant talks about we're quick to redecorate our bathrooms or change our wardrobes, but very rarely do we think about changing the way in which we think. As he says, we laugh at people who are using computers that are 10 years old, while at the same time clinging to opinions we formed ten years ago.

Grant's work brings to mind another book, a bit older, called *Immunity to Change*, which talks about how we humans seem to be immune to change and perhaps the only thing that helps us get over that immunity is persistently encountering the limits of our current ways of thinking and being.

I don't know about you but somewhere between COVID and climate change, and the shifting economic and political landscape we're living in, I think we're all persistently experiencing the limits of our ways of being and thinking. And in some ways this is a good thing. The world is facing many wicked problems—many large problems—many of which are the unintended consequences of this whole knowledge-is-power mindset. I think it's probably time for us all, individually and collectively, to admit what we don't know and to begin the path of true wisdom.

And so, this Lent, I invite you, like me, to be careful of when you fall into the knowledge-is-power mindset and to be more willing to embrace what you don't know. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. And getting on the path of wisdom, I am quite sure, begins with admitting what we don't know. Amen.