

Wisdom as Quality of Choices Douglas McKee

Copthorne MacDonald, on *The Wisdom Page*, has a list of 48 “characteristics associated” with Wisdom. See: <http://www.wisdompage.com/WisdomCharacteristics.html>

In correspondence shortly before his passing I proposed the words on the list were not just characteristics; that the words, instead of being nouns, should be considered *adjectives* and *adverbs*.

Wisdom is a cognitive framework for making the best choices. Copthorne’s characteristics describe the attributes and the manner in which the wise choice is made.

The wise have always thought about things the same way. What they have had to think about has varied tremendously, but their cognitive processes have always been the same.

How many of us can say the words on Copthorne’s List describe our personal thought processes or how we govern our interactions with each other?

Here’s Copthorne’s List.

Accepting, Accountable, Alert, Appreciative, Balanced, Calm, Caring, Cautious, Compassionate, Cooperative, Courageous, Courteous, Creative, Curious, Defiant, Determined, Devoted, Discrete, Flexible, Focused, Forgiving, Generous, Gentle, Grateful, Honest, Humble, Humorous, Impartial, Industrious, Innocent, Just, Kind, Magnanimous, Merciful, Moderate, Modest, Nurturing, Obedient, Open, Optimistic, Patient, Peaceful, Prudent, Purposeful, Receptive, Reliable, Respectable, Responsible, Respectful, Sensitive, Simple, Sincere, Sober, Spontaneous, Steadfast, Strong, Striving, Thoughtful, Tolerant, Tough, Tranquil, Trustworthy, Truthful, Understanding

There is something wrong with how we all have been taught to make choices.

Try applying these as you go through your day and see what happens to the quality of your choices. See the reflection of your choices as they ripple through those with whom you interact.

When these words describe the kind of choices we make and the kind of people we are, almost all our problems will disappear.

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