

# THINKING AS A CHRISTIAN PROV. 18:13,15,17

I grew up around arguing...loud, irrational, very limited knowledge, very poor reasoning skills...but tons of opinions!!!

Most of it was silly stuff and didn't matter!

Some things are serious though!

**3 activities:** (simultaneous to some degree and intertwined)

## 1. Suspension of judgment

John 7:24,

Judge <b>not</b> according to the appearance, but judge (a) righteous judgment	Μὴ κρίνετε κατ' ὄψιν, ἀλλὰ τὴν δικαίαν κρίσιν κρίνατε
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**Proverbs 18:13** He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, It is folly and shame unto him.

### This sounds so funny:

- No rush to judgment
- Being willing to wait
- Being willing to not know
- Taking your time
- Don't judge a book by its cover
- Don't jump to conclusions
- Act in haste, repent at leisure
- Nah, I got this...oops!
- I don't have to have an opinion!!!
- Measure twice, cut once
- The jury is still out

**Proverbs 17:27** He that hath knowledge spareth his words: And a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit. **Proverbs 17:28** Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: And he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.

Calvinism vs Arminianism

For me it took from 10- years...piece by piece!

### Why is this important?

- It prevents us from looking like a fool
- Do we like to be wrong?
- Have we ever been wrong?
- Have we ever changed our mind?

## 2. The accumulation and evaluation of evidence

Most of us are **not** good at this but this is exceptionally Biblical!

**Proverbs 18:13** He that answereth a matter **before** he heareth it, It is folly and shame unto him.

**Proverbs 18:15** The heart of the prudent **getteth** knowledge; And the ear of the wise **seeketh** knowledge.

**Proverbs 18:17** He that is first in his own cause seemeth just; But his neighbour cometh and searcheth him.

### Thoughts:

- Get the facts / evidence

➤ **Get the facts / evidence before you make a decision / have an opinion**

➤ **Actively get the facts / evidence**

➤ **Get the facts / evidence as an expression of who you are**

Heart, prudent, ear, wise

Wise men are known for their carefulness and caution.

➤ **Get all the facts / evidence**

➤ **Get the facts / evidence from all sides**

➤ **Get the facts / evidence with the help of others**

**Proverbs 11:14** Where no counsel is, the people fall: But **in the multitude of counsellors** there is safety.

**Proverbs 15:22** Without counsel purposes are disappointed: **But in the multitude of counsellors** they are established.

**Proverbs 20:12** The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, The LORD hath made even both of them.

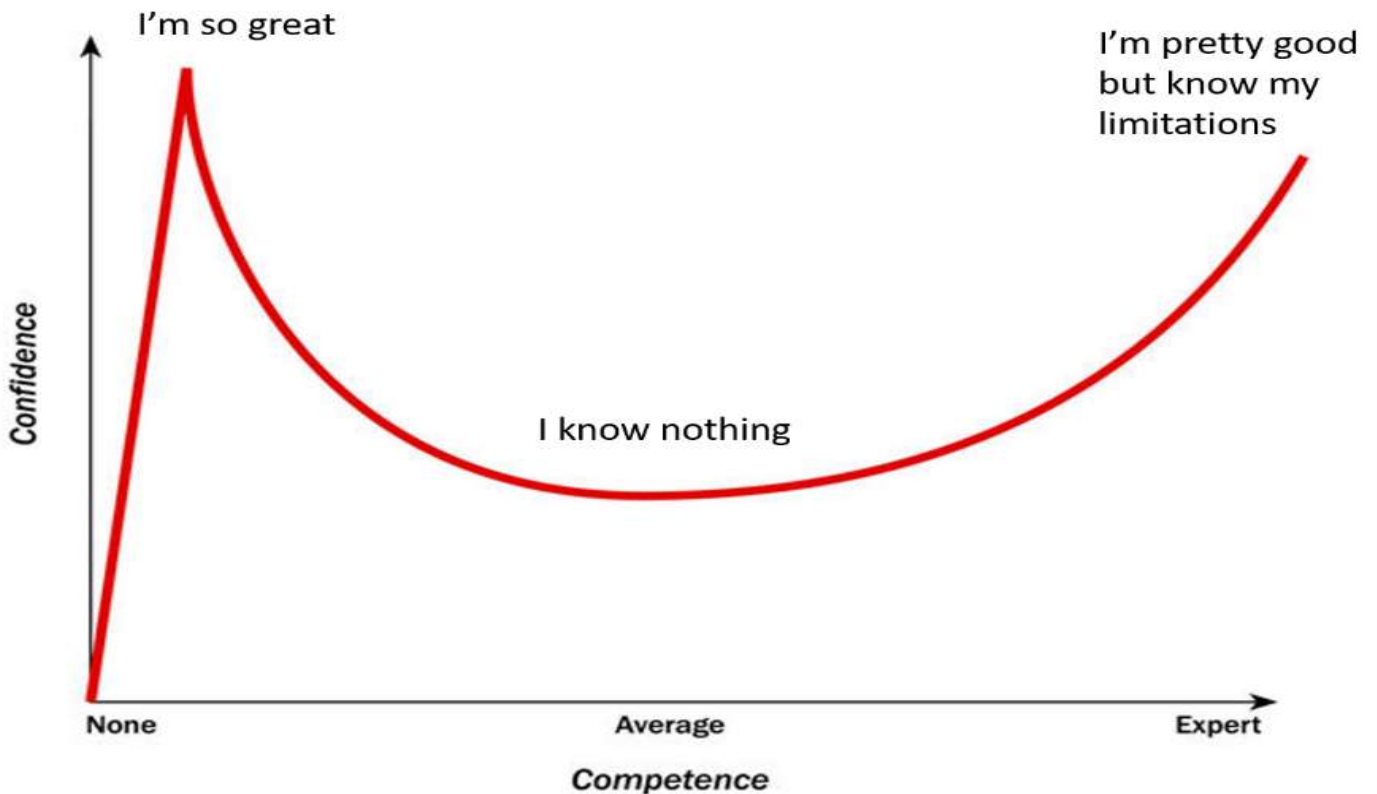
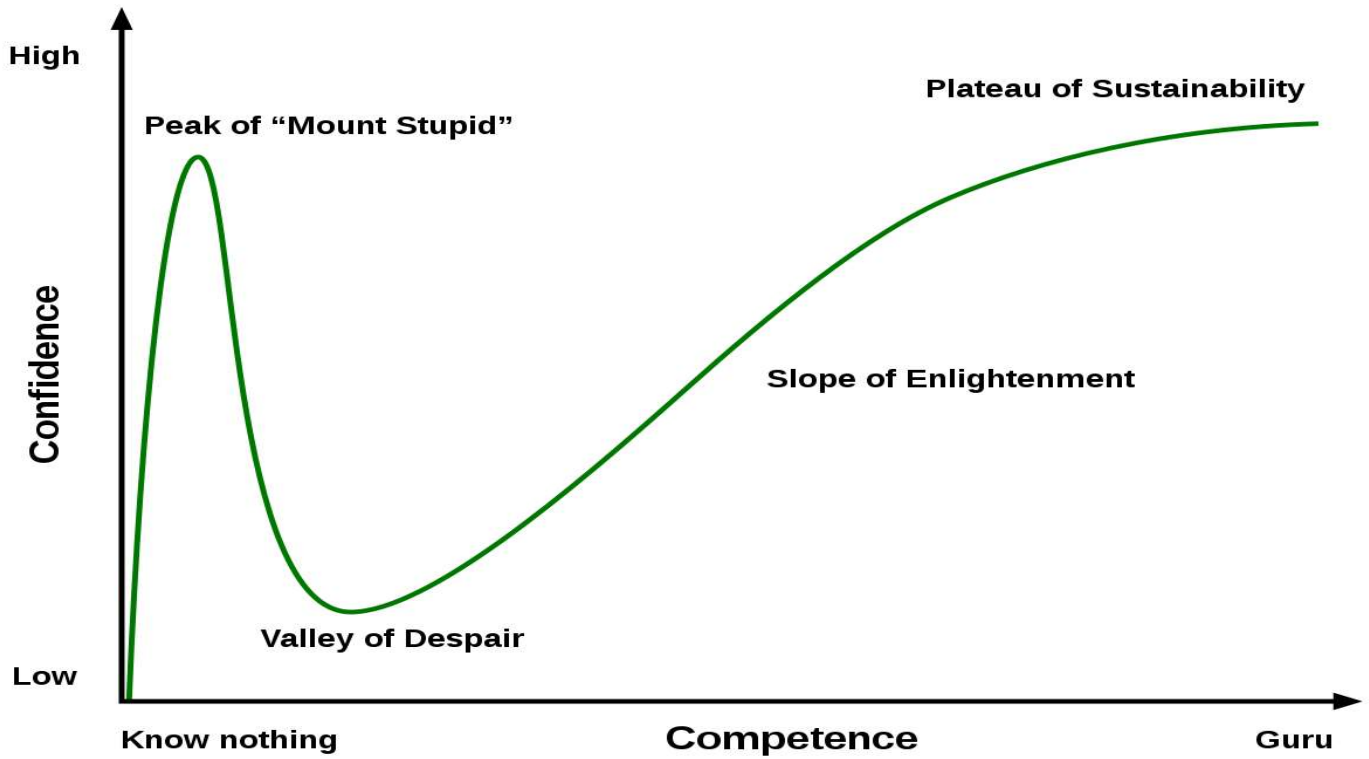
**Proverbs 20:18** Every purpose is established **by counsel**: And **with good advice** make war.

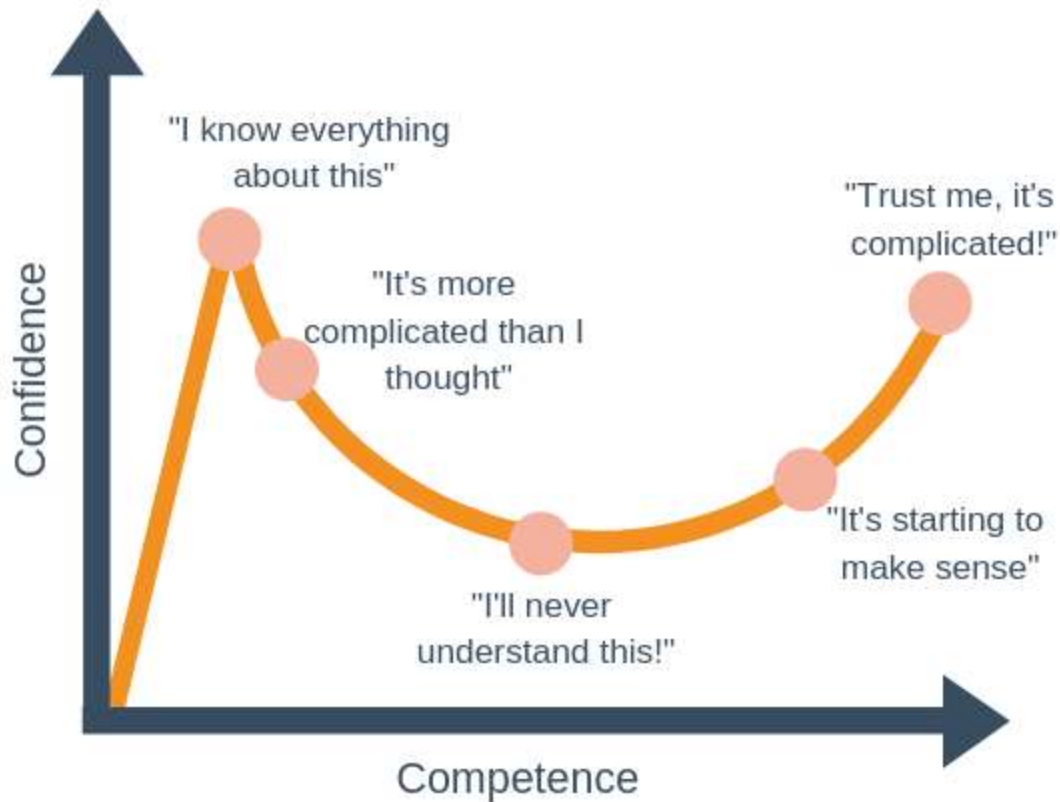
**Proverbs 21:2** Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: **But** the LORD pondereth the hearts.

**Proverbs 20:5** Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; But a man of understanding will draw it out.

**Proverbs 24:6** For **by wise counsel** thou shalt make thy war: And **in multitude of counsellors** there is safety.

# Dunning-Kruger Effect





**Beware of (ultra-)crepidarianism!!!**

**Sutor, ne ultra crepidam! Shoemaker, not beyond the shoe!**

➤ **Get the facts / evidence because God commands it!!!**

**Deuteronomy 13:12** If thou shalt hear say in one of thy cities, which the LORD thy God hath given thee to dwell there, saying, **Deuteronomy 13:13** Certain men, the children of Belial, are gone out from among you, and have withdrawn the inhabitants of their city, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which ye have not known;

**Deuteronomy 13:14 Then shalt thou inquire, and make search, and ask diligently; and, behold, if it be truth, and the thing certain, that such abomination is wrought among you;**

**Deuteronomy 17:2 If there be found among you, within any of thy gates which the LORD thy God giveth thee, man or woman, that hath wrought wickedness in the sight of the LORD thy God, in transgressing his covenant, Deuteronomy 17:3 And hath gone and served other gods, and worshipped them, either the sun, or moon, or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded; Deuteronomy 17:4 And it be told thee, and thou hast heard of it, and inquired diligently, and, behold, it be true, and the thing certain, that such abomination is wrought in Israel: Deuteronomy 17:5 Then shalt thou bring forth that man or that woman, which have committed that wicked thing, unto thy gates, even that man or that woman, and shalt stone them with stones, till they die. Deuteronomy 17:6 At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death. Deuteronomy 17:7 The hands of the witnesses shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So thou shalt put the evil away from among you.**

**Deuteronomy 19:15 One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.**

**Deuteronomy 19:16 If a false witness rise up against any man to testify against him that which is wrong; Deuteronomy 19:17 Then both the men, between whom the controversy is, shall stand before the LORD, before the priests and the judges, which shall be in those days; Deuteronomy 19:18 And the judges shall make diligent inquisition: and, behold, if the witness be a false witness, and hath testified falsely against his brother; Deuteronomy 19:19 Then shall ye do unto him, as he had thought to have done unto his brother: so shalt thou put the evil away from among you. Deuteronomy 19:20 And those which remain shall hear, and fear, and shall henceforth commit no more any such evil among you. Deuteronomy 19:21 And thine eye shall not pity; but life shall go for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.**

- Get the facts / evidence **regardless if** most don't!
- Get the facts / evidence **or don't** have an opinion / bias / conclusion!

### 3. Recognition of bias

On almost every issue we already have an opinion...

Bias comes from **many** places and **must** be **recognized** and **resisted**:

Background	Class	Family
Region / regional	Sex	Education
Country of origin	Personal experiences	Family experiences
Height	Beauty	Race & / nationality
Time in history	IQ	Age
Personality	Birth order	Where you grew up!

<b>Military!!!</b>	<b>Loyalties</b>	

**Examples from my own family:**

**Rita:**

**Mom:**

**Today we face one old issue and three new issues &/ forms of that old issue:**

**(1.) Confirmation bias**

The tendency to search for, interpret, & recall information in a way that supports what we already believe.

**(2.) Algorithmic editing / filter bubbles**

We all (should) know this now!

Facebook:

Politics:

Go to Walmart / Sam's Club / Costco / Jewel-Osco and we all enter the  
Go to Facebook / YouTube... and we all enter totally

**(3.) Shortcut heuristics**

We can't know everything

We have **only** so much time & energy

We cannot sort through everything

**We look to experts / groups / sources to help us!**

**(4.) Peer pressure (social motivation)**

**Never underestimate:**

- **Your desire to be right**
- **Your desire to be liked**

**Exodus 23:2** Thou shalt **not** follow a multitude to do evil; **neither** shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment:

**Exodus 23:3** **Neither** shalt thou countenance a poor man in his cause.

**Exodus 23:4** **If** thou meet thine enemy's ox or his ass going astray, thou shalt surely bring it back to him again.

**Exodus 23:5** **If** thou see the ass of him that hateth thee lying under his burden, and wouldest forbear to help him, thou shalt surely help with him.

**Exodus 23:6** Thou shalt **not** wrest the judgment of thy poor in his cause.

**Exodus 23:7** Keep thee far from a false matter; and the innocent and righteous slay thou not: for I will not justify the wicked.

**Exodus 23:8** And thou shalt take **no** gift: **for** the gift blindeth the wise, and perverteth the words of the righteous.

**Exodus 23:9** Also thou shalt **not** oppress a stranger: for ye know the heart of a stranger, seeing ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.