

# Proverbs 19:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding shall find good.

## Analysis

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Getting wisdom demonstrates self-love in the highest sense—seeking one's true good. Keeping understanding leads to finding good, showing wisdom's practical benefits. This isn't selfish but properly ordered self-interest that recognizes spiritual flourishing is the path to genuine wellbeing.

## Historical Context

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Ancient wisdom literature was explicitly eudaimonistic—concerned with human flourishing. Biblical wisdom uniquely grounds this flourishing in covenant relationship with God.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does pursuing godly wisdom demonstrate genuine love for yourself?

2. What 'good' have you found by keeping biblical understanding?

## Interlinear Text

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קָנָה	לְבָבָךְ	אֶחָד	נֶפֶשׁ	רְשֵׁם	תִּבְּנֵת
He that getteth	wisdom	loveth	his own soul	he that keepeth	understanding
H7069	H3820	H157	H5315	H8104	H8394
טוב: למצא					
shall find	good				
H4672	H2896				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 16:20** (Good): He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he.

**Proverbs 3:18** (Parallel theme): She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her.

**Proverbs 4:6** (Love): Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.

**John 14:21** (Love): He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

**1 Peter 3:10** (Love): For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:

**Psalms 19:11** (Parallel theme): Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

**Proverbs 17:16** (Parallel theme): Wherefore is there a price in the hand of a fool to get wisdom, seeing he hath no heart to it?

**Proverbs 22:18** (Parallel theme): For it is a pleasant thing if thou keep them within thee; they shall withal be fitted in thy lips.

**Proverbs 3:21** (Parallel theme): My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion:

**Proverbs 4:21** (Parallel theme): Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

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