**Wise as Serpents**

1. **The Command**  
   Matt. 10:16 “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore, be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.
2. **The Commentary**  
   - “serpents…cunningly avoid unnecessary exposure to danger.” JFB  
   -“the serpent…is sharp sighted and uses various artsand stratagems for its own preservation… Christians ought to use all proper methods to preserve themselves.” J.Gill   
   - “as serpents, whose policy is only to defend themselves and to shift for their own safety.” Matthew Henry  
   - “the serpent is here viewed as the very embodiment of intellectual acumen or shrewdness…the keenness here recommended as a human quality involves insight into the nature of one’s surrounding…” W. Hendriksen
3. **Contemporary Cultural Application**  
     
   **A. Government Education**

Deut. 6:6-9   
 Psalm 1:1 Blessed *is* the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful;  
 Prov. 1:7 The fear of the Lord *is* the beginning of knowledge…  
 Prov. 9:10 “The fear of the Lord *is* the beginning of wisdom…  
 Col. 3:9 Do not lie to one another…  
 2 Cor. 6:17 “Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord…  
 Matt. 12:30 He who is not with Me is against Me…

Children to be Educated for Christ – Edward Hooker  
 The Messianic Character of American Education - R.J. Rushdoony  
 None Dare Call it Education – John Stormer  
 The Harsh Truth about Public Education – Bruce Shortt  
 Education, Christianity, and the State – J. Gresham Machen

**B. Godless Entertainment**

Psalm 1:1   
Psalm 101:3 I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not cling to me.  
Rom. 1:28-32 …knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.  
Rom. 12:11-14 …let us throw off the works of darkness… make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts.   
Gal. 5:19-21   
James 4:4…Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?   
1 John 2:15-1Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him…

Holiness – J.C. Ryle  
 A Treatise on Earthly Mindedness – J. Burroughs  
 The Tattooed Jesus – Kevin Swanson  
 Star Wars and the Ancient Religion – Peter Jones  
 The Marketing of Evil – David Kupelain

**C. Governor’s Edicts**

Rom. 13:1-7   
1 Pet. 2:13-17  
Titus 3:2 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities…

Mark 12:17 ..render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s..  
Matt. 17:24-27 …Nevertheless, lest we offend them…   
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Prov. 18:13 He who answers a matter before he hears *it, i*t *is* folly and shame to him.  
Prov. 14:15 The simple believes every word, but the prudent considers well his steps.  
1 Thess. 5:21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.  
1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Lex Rex – Samuel Rutherford  
By This Standard – Greg Bahnsen  
Theonomy in Christian Ethics – Greg Bahnsen  
God and Politics – Gary Scott Smith  
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The Thinking Toolbox – Bluedorn   
Logic – Gordon Clark  
Introduction to Logic – Jason Lisle