

James 3 “Wisdom From Above”
James 3:13-18
October 13, 2024

James 3:13-18

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. 15 This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. 18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

What is wisdom?

Understanding two kinds of wisdom.

How do we get the wisdom that is from above?

Biblical wisdom is to skillfully live with your life aligned to the things of God.

James 3:14-16

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The way you detect false wisdom is that it is mainly considered with “self.”

James 3:17-18

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Matthew 5:7-9

7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Martin Luther - “sticks to these two- namely, the Word of faith toward God, which purifies the heart, and the Word of understanding (love), which teaches him what he is to do toward his neighbor in his station - everything is pure for him, even if with his hands and the rest of his body he handles nothing but dirt.”

The word “good” comes from the Greek word which means lovely.

Wisdom from below brings chaos and disorder.
Wisdom from above is one that harmonizes and reconciles.

How do we get this kind of wisdom that is from above?

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. 22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. 30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Jesus is the ultimate wisdom of God that came down from heaven.

True wisdom is someone you believe in.

Life Group Discussion Questions

- 1.) What did God say to you through His Word during our Sunday gathering?
- 2.) Who in your life has exemplified and imparted godly wisdom? What characteristics mark his or her life?
- 3.) How would you describe the difference between worldly and godly wisdom?
- 4.) What is the difference between knowing facts and possessing true godly wisdom?
- 5.) In what ways have you been preoccupied with security, power, and achieving?
- 6.) When you read the list of qualities of "wisdom from above," which one challenges you the most?
- 7.) What is a relationship in your life that needs some peace making?
- 8.) What does it mean that Jesus the ultimate wisdom from above?
- 9.) How can our Life Group support each other in pursuing godly wisdom and living?