

Small Group questions.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. When and where do you get your best ideas?
2. What is the worst piece of advice you have ever been given?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Looking back at your sermon notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, was new, challenging or confusing to you?
2. From James 3:17, what areas in your life do you feel like you have godly wisdom that is:
 - a. Pure –
 - b. Peaceable –
 - c. Gentle –
 - d. Open to reason –
 - e. Full of mercy and good fruits –
 - f. Impartial –
 - g. Sincere –
3. Which of these areas mentioned do you feel like you are lacking characteristics of godly wisdom?
4. What is the relationship between godly wisdom in your life and your relational successes or failures?
5. Discuss how your relationship with God influences how much godly wisdom you exhibit.

Grace Norwalk. - James Pt. 13. 3:13-18 “Making Wise Choices.” Pastor Oscar Chavez

¹³ *Who is wise and understanding among you?*

Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

¹⁴ *But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.* ¹⁵ *Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.* ¹⁶ *For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.*

¹⁷ *But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.* ¹⁸ *Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.*

The Hebrew idea of wisdom is practical it's the ability to make the right choices in life

Psalms 111:10

“the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”

Two things James calls us to consider: God's desire/ Your desire

I. God's Desire. What God desires for us.

¹³ *Who is wise and understanding among you*

- **Who is wise?** =
- **And understanding?** =

V.13b “Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom”

Wisdom is living in a proper sense of values it's living in light of what is true, what is right and what is lasting

- **To show** = a command = Greek “HE MUST SHOW”
- **by their good life, his good behavior. = anastrofe =** Does not refer a good deed here and there it refers to **an entire way of life**
- **The entire way of life has to be Good = Kalas =** Has the sense of **beautiful. Goodness** that is lovely and attractive
- **done in the humility that comes from wisdom** Gentleness / humility is the idea that this person lives a life under the power of control... (A horse that's under control)
- Not a person who just runs over others but a person who treats others with gentleness, you take others' feelings in consideration...

James tells them these are the types of wisdom, you decide which one fits your life

Each Wisdom has: **Its Origin – Its Operation – Its Outcome**

II. My Desire. What kind of wisdom do I desire to live by...?

Heavenly/ Earthly. Or Godly/ demonic Wisdom.

Two kinds of wisdom V.14-16

¹⁴ But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. ¹⁵ Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

A. Earthly or False, dead... Wisdom:

Its Origin:

"Such wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

Earthly: Having this LIFE only in view.

Unspiritual.: It's objective. The gratification of the passions and animal propensities.

Demonic: Demoniactal Inspired by demons and maintained in the soul by their indwelling influence. Adam Clarke

Its Operation:

- **Harboring bitter envy.** ¹⁴ But if you harbor bitter envy

Bitter Jealousy = **Pikros** = meaning pointed-sharp.

It is jealousy that is sharp, cutting, destructive with not concerned for the feelings or Welfare of those who are its objects

These are people who live self-centered lives in the world in which their own personal ideas, desires and standards are the measure of everything

- **Selfish Ambition.** V.14b and selfish ambition in your hearts.

When we are in love with our own ideas instead of the Lord Jesus, we struggle to promote our ideas and our success rather than promoting Him. Believers with true wisdom avoid envy and selfish ambition which results in confusion and evil

Greek = **Eritheia.**

- **Denying the truth.** do not boast about it or deny the truth.

A professed Christian who is proud of boasting, self-centered, loveless, and arrogant is a fraud. To claim otherwise is to deny the truth.

It's hard to find a self-professed fool. Most people have an elevated and unrealistic high opinion of their wisdom, although they might not say so.

¹⁵ Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven

Its Out come:

¹⁶ For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice

- Disorder / Confusion
- Evil practices

B. Heavenly or True Wisdom:

Its Origin:

¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven

Its Operation:

¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

- Pure
- Peace-loving
- Considerate
- Submissive.
- Full of Mercy
- Good Fruits
- Impartial
- Sincere

Its Out come:

- Peacemakers who sow in peace