

SUMMER SERMON SERIES 2022

“Making Wise Choices.” 3:13-18

JAMES

FAITH ⊕ ACTION

GRACE NORWALK

James 1 - 3

- We need God's wisdom when we go through trials. 1:2-12
- We need God's wisdom when we are tempted 1:13-15
- We need God's wisdom to apply His Word in our life. 1:16-18
- We need God's wisdom in being a doer of the word. 1:19-27
- We need God's wisdom in how we treat others 2:1-26
- We need God's wisdom to help us control our tongue.... 3:1-12

- **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.***

- **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.***

- 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”*

- ***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.***

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?**

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?*

V.13b

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

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

- Each Wisdom has:

Its Origen

Its Operation

Its Outcome

- 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 Origen:**

- *“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:

- 1. 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

Its Operation:

- 2. 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*.

Its Operation:

- **3. 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. 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

- **Disorder / Confusion**

- **Evil practices**

• Heavenly or True Wisdom:

• Its Origen.

¹⁷ *But the wisdom that comes from heaven*

- Heavenly or True Wisdom:

- **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.*

Its Operation:

Heavenly or True Wisdom:

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

Earthly or False Wisdom

- Disorder
- Selfish ambition
- Not humble
- Bitter
- Confusion
- Envy / Jealousy
- Self convenient
- Chaos / Disorder / Confusion

- Heavenly or True Wisdom:

- **Its Out come:**

- Peacemakers who sow in peace

- ***¹⁸ Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.***

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