



The Importance of True Wisdom

James 3:13-18

There are two kinds of wisdoms to guide our lives today. Each will produce different kinds of lives and relationships. Which wisdom are you using?

1st Kind of Wisdom:

- It's source is... James 3:15
 - ***Earthly:***
 - ***Natural:***
 - ***Demonic:***
- It's outcome—Your life will reflect the following: James 3:14, 16
 - ***Bitter jealousy***
 - ***Selfish ambition***
 - ***Disorder***
 - ***Evil thing***

2nd Kind of Wisdom

- It's source....***from above.*** James 3:17; Colossians 3:1-4
- It's outcome—Your life will reflect the following: James 3:17, 18
 - ***Pure***
 - ***Peaceable***
 - ***Gentle***
 - ***Reasonable***
 - ***Full of mercy and good fruits***
 - ***Unwavering***
 - ***Without hypocrisy***
 - ***Fruit of righteousness sown in peace***

Digging Deeper In James 3:13-18

There are two “wisdoms” in this passage which you can choose from to direct your life. Problems enter your life when you depend on the wrong kind of wisdom, even though it may seem like good truth to you.

This wrong wisdom is first evident in Satan’s dialogue with Eve.

Read **Genesis 3**:

How does God’s truth about the eating from the tree and Eve’s comments about that law get mixed up as she describes it to Satan? Do you know of any time you or others have added to or deleted some truth of God to mix it up with man’s wisdom?

In what way did Satan try and erase any bad consequences from disobeying God in **vs. 4**? Are there current situations you have experienced or known where the negative consequences of wrong behavior have been overlooked, dismissed, rationalized or ignored so that people can do what they want regardless of what God says?

In **verse 6**, Eve now deliberately disobeys God and relies on her own “wisdom.” How is her disobedient behavior rationalized and even made to sound like a good thing? Do you know of behaviors today which are rationalized and even made to sound good, proper, and right for some people? In fact, some sinful behaviors are considered constitutional rights in our country and many use the same rationalizations of Eve. This is the result of mixing God’s truth and man’s “wisdom.”

James 3:14-16 says that man’s wisdom will result in “*disorder and every evil thing*.” Where do you see that result in **Genesis 3:8-24**?

Where do you see that either in your life, or our world?

Also, read **Genesis 4** and note man’s wisdom resulted in “*selfish ambition, bitter jealousy*” along with “*disorder and every evil thing*” in Cain and Abel’s relationship. Can you see how **James 3:14-16** is proven true?

How should you pray for yourself, your family and friends who may be experiencing these same kinds of results?

James 3:17, 18 describes the “*wisdom from above.*”

How does **Colossians 3:1-4** tell you to direct your mind?

Just before **Colossians 3**, Paul makes a warning to us all about the “wisdom” of the world in **Colossians 2:4-10**. Write down in your own words what that warning is for you and your family.

The wisdom from God will be characterized by the following qualities. I have listed them below on one side along with the opposite quality on the other side. As you evaluate your life, where do you see yourself in each quality? How should you then pray and seek God’s wisdom for those areas of your life where you want to be more like **James 3:17, 18**?

God’s Wisdom is...	Without God’s wisdom...
Pure —chaste, modest, holy, clean	Sinful in thought or deed
Peaceable —soothing, healing, right relationships with others and God.	Disorder and Hurtful in words, deeds, and relationships.
Gentle —reasonableness, looking at all facts before judgment, equitable, fair.	Quick to make a judgment. Jump to conclusion for revenge. Demand your rights.
Reasonable —willing to listen, conciliatory, teachable, open minded, persuadable.	Not teachable and stubborn. Refuse to listen. Rigid. Close minded.
Full of mercy and good fruits —kind to afflicted, caring about their needs and seek to provide a beneficial good work to help them.	Concerned with your own needs and is not sensitive to other people’s problems. Refuse to help by telling them they are probably to blame for their problems.
Unwavering —no partiality, or compromise in your beliefs. You know the right thing to do and will do it. Consistent and confident in matters of right and wrong.	Relativistic truth where you make up your own ethical response for each situation. Constantly uncertain about right from wrong, truth from false ideas.
Without Hypocrisy — You are open, authentic and people know the real you. Nothing to hide or cover up. Confident in who you are in Christ.	Cover up who you really are and what you really think. Live a lie before others to make them think better of you less they see the real you.
Fruit of righteousness in peace —You live by the qualities above and are at peace in your own heart no matter how life or circumstances may treat you.	You are constantly trying to figure out who you are, and what you believe. You will change and cover up the real you, in a rather chaotic, disorderly life. You are never at peace or content in your heart or your life. You think if you get more money, power, prestige or a certain position, then life will be better and at peace.

Our Prayer for Mothers:

Thank you, Lord, for the life of our mother. We want to praise You for how You have called her to this ministry of caring for her children. I pray that she will grow more in her fear of You and therefore grow in the fullness of your wisdom. Give her the strength of heart, clarity of mind and faithfulness of life to fully enjoy and bear the fruit of Your wisdom in a life of that is pure, peaceable, gentle, reasonable and full of mercy and good fruits. Keep her from wavering; confident and open in who she is in Christ and His truth that gives her real freedom. I pray that she will live out her life with a rich fulfillment from the fruit of Your righteousness so she will be satisfied with a heart and life of peace with You, dear Lord, and those in her family. Thank you, Lord, for providing such wisdom that allows our mother to live this spiritually rich and purposeful life in You. In Jesus name, Amen.



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