



November 26th, 2017

THE CONTRASTS OF WISDOM

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.

- James 3:13-18 NIV

EARTH'S WISDOM

There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end, it leads to death.

- Proverbs 14:12 NIV

1. It is Worldly.

Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

- 1 Corinthians 1:20 NIV

2. It is Sensual.

³ At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. ⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us...

- Titus 3:3-5 NIV

3. It is Demonic.

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. - John 8:44 ESV

WISDOM FROM ABOVE

The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. - Proverbs 4:7 NIV

1. It Comes from Godly Principles.

*All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.
- 1 John 3:3 NIV*

2. It Acts with Godly Motives.

¹ Therefore, if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. ⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus. - Philippians 2:1-5 NIV

3. It Strives to Serve Godly Purposes.

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
- Matthew 5:9 NIV*

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. - Matthew 5:16 NIV

GETTING WISDOM

*How can men be wise? The only way to begin is by reverence for God.
- Psalm 111:10 TLB*

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. - James 1:5 ESV

Knowledge comes from Education.

Wisdom comes from God.

² I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God's mysterious plan, which is Christ himself. ³ In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. - Colossians 2:2-3 NLT

MY NEXT STEP THIS WEEK...

- Memorize *James 1:5*.
- Look at my hard choices and ask God for wisdom.
- Read through the Proverbs of Solomon.
- Give my life to Jesus as Savior and Lord, for the first time.

WALK THE TALK

A Growth Group Guide

Read James 3:13-18.

1. Who are the “gurus” right now in the world, giving people hope? Have you ever attended their seminars?
2. At what moments in the week do you find yourself responding from emotion rather than God’s purpose? What are your triggers?
3. Read Isaiah 11:11-13 and Ezekiel 28:11-19. When we read the account of Satan’s fall, can you understand how our foundation of wisdom outside of God can be demonic as James states?
4. Who is an example, within your community of faith, of someone having Godly motives?
5. James says that peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness? Explain your view of a peacemaker and how this principle plays out.
6. Have you read from Proverbs this week? Have you seen any of the proverbs jump from the page, speaking to your circumstances?