

James 3

James 3: ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

Tongue Analogies:

Bit Rudder Fire Spring Tree

Going back to Ch. 2, James reminds us that our tongues reveal our true faith. Can we claim to be a follower of Christ if we bless him with the same mouth we use to curse his creation? We can fool ourselves, but our tongues will reveal who we are.

Prov 18: ²¹Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

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

Continuing in the same thought, conduct reveals wisdom. The source of our wisdom shows in our actions.

- Worldly Wisdom- Look out for #1, get what's mine, anger. Sourced in demonic rebellion
- Godly Wisdom- Peaceful, concerned for others, love your neighbor as yourself. Sourced in Spirit

What motivates your actions? 1 Cor 2:6-15 Paul talks about the Spirit and Wisdom. Verbal expressions of faith are worldly wisdoms unless accompanied by the fruit of Spiritual wisdom.

Living a life where one dwells in the teaching and person of Jesus places one where Spiritual wisdom can abound.

This leads to a discussion of ethics. What are ethics for a Christian?

The New Testament does not enumerate a list of ethical rules to follow per se, but proposes a set of central ideas and images that energize the behavioral dimensions of Christian obedience (see Furnish). The focal point is an ethic of discernment, under the authority of God the Father (Col 1:10), with the freeing power and example of the Lord Jesus (Phil 2:5–11; 1 John 3:16), by the guidance of the Holy Spirit (Rom 15:16). [Lexham Bible Dictionary]

Ethics are wisdom and faith applied to your daily life decisions, small and large.

1 Peter 1:¹³Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy.

- **What are right and wrong ethical systems that people adopt?**
- **Are ethics absolute or relative?**