



Pastor Vaughn

1. The challenge
2. The contrast between professed wisdom that's false and true wisdom from God

The proof that false wisdom is in control:

- bitter zeal
- selfish ambition

The source of false wisdom:

- it is earthly, natural, demonic

The proof that true, godly wisdom is in control - 8 characteristics:

- the wisdom from above is pure
- peaceable
- gentle
- reasonable
- full of mercy
- full of good fruits
- unwavering
- without hypocrisy

The product of godly wisdom

3. Application:

The Wisdom From Above

James 3:13 - 18

October 11, 2026

James 3:13-18

13 Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.

14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth.

15 This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic.

16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

18 And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others. For more information about Koinonia Groups at Heritage Church that utilize these questions as the basis for their discussion, please see Pastor Vaughn or e-mail Vaughn@hcgj.org.

1. How does godly wisdom shape and guide the life of the Christian?
2. How is the presence of godly wisdom proven and measured in the Christian's life?
3. Why is a stated belief in orthodox doctrine alone apart from the evidence of a transformed life not enough to confirm that one possesses godly wisdom?
4. What does the false wisdom that is "earthly, natural, demonic" result in according to James? Why?
5. According to the message, what does James mean when he says that "the wisdom from above is peaceable?"
6. Why should Christians be peacemakers?
7. What might be some of the unspecified "good fruits" of godly wisdom referenced by James in 3:17?
8. Can the Christian continually grow in godly wisdom? How?

Here are some resources that may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Vaughn cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Blomberg, Craig L. and Miriam J. Kaele. **Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament V 16**. Zondervan 2008.

Hughes, Kent R. **James, Faith That Works**. Crossway, 1991.

Lenski, Richard C.H., **The Interpretation to the Epistle to the Hebrews and the Epistle of James**. Augsburg Fortress, 1946, 2008.

MacArthur, John. **The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: James**. Moody Publishers, 1998.

Moo, Douglas J. **The Letter of James**. Intervarsity, 1985.

Varner, William. **The Book of James, A New Perspective**. Kress, 2010.

Zodihates, Spires. **The Work of Faith**. Eerdmans 1959.

Streaming of both the audio and video of today's sermon is available on the Heritage website (HCGJ.org) and App (Heritage GJ). The App can also be found on YouTube, RokuTV, AppleTV, GoogleTV, FireTV, and CarPlay. Podcasts for Heritage Church can also be found on your favorite provider.