

07/12/26 Message

Part of Real ReligionA Journey Through the Book of James
July 8, 2026

Message: Pure Wisdom

Series: Real Religion

Background

This series is an exposition of the book of James, written by Jesus' brother who "found faith" after His death, burial, and resurrection. James was writing to a persecuted church, and he wanted them to understand the difference between man-made religion and true, genuine, real religion.

We see something happen in James that should be what happens to us once we grasp who Jesus really is. James became full of the Holy Spirit who lit a fire inside him that made people notice this man was changed!

—Pastor Chad

James is shouting:

- Walking with Jesus is not about RELIGION it's about RELATIONSHIP!

Two Types of Wisdom

- Read **Proverbs 3:5-6**

James 3:13-18 (NLT)

13 If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom.

14 But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying.

15 For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic.

16 For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.

17 But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere.

18 And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

Real religion pursues heavenly wisdom, not earthly cleverness. You can be theologically educated and spiritually foolish at the same time. James teaches us how to know the difference! He draws a line in the sand and it's a line our culture doesn't like to acknowledge. There is a kind of smart that is actually dangerous, and there is a kind of wisdom that looks nothing like what we typically reward.

- Earthly Wisdom (The ROOT and the FRUIT) vv13-14
– Read **James 1:2-3**

James 3:14 (NLT)

But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying.

Back to the basic question of this series. Is it real? If it's real, you don't have to cover it up. The Bible is full of language comparing the Christian journey to a garden or an orchard, emphasizing you are known by the fruit produced in and from your life. Now, we're connecting the fruit to the root as James identifies the core of earthly wisdom in v14, bitter jealousy and selfish ambition. These aren't things you outwardly do, it's a matter of how you think and what you believe... it's a heart issue.

—Pastor Chad

It's the root of the fruit. So, what's the fruit? He tells us:

James 3:15-16 (NLT)

15 For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic.

16 For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.

- Heavenly Wisdom (EVIDENCE of being REAL)

James 3:17 (NLT)

But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere.

– This verse reveals evidence; seven marks of what real wisdom from heaven looks like.

Evidence of being real

- Pure
- Peace-loving
- Gentle and willing to yield
- Full of mercy
- Full of good deeds
- Without favoritism
- Always sincere

Peacemakers

James 3:18 (NLT)

And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

When you look at the original language, James is saying those making peace, those living a life of peace, those who have heavenly wisdom, they sew or plant peace, but the fruit is righteousness! The fruit is being made right with God through His eyes.

—Pastor Chad

- Does earthly wisdom or heavenly wisdom drive your most important decisions?
- Are your decisions geared towards the peace and good of others, or toward your own advancement and security?
- What about the fruit? Is your presence in a situation producing peace and order or chaos and disorder? Unity or conflict? What does the fruit tell you about the root?

The world needs people who are wise.

The world needs people who bring peace.

The world needs people who bring mercy.

The world needs people who bring sincerity.

The world needs people who bring action (good deeds).

It begins with humility, humbling yourself before a God who loves you so much He created you; falling at the feet of your Savior who suffered and gave up His life for yours; seeking wisdom from your Father in heaven to enter every situation as an opportunity to show His love to someone so desperate for His amazing grace!

—Pastor Chad