

- I) V13-18 INTRO: Who is **wise** and **understanding** among you Let him show **by good**
DEVELOP V1 MORE DEEPLY
- II) James has been writing concerning **teachers** of the Word of God
He made it clear that, because they speak for God, they receive stricter judgment
WHY?
- III) This is because they have more opportunity **to speak about God**, and His **kingdom**
This gives more opportunity to stumble in word resulting in misrepresenting God
Pr 10:19 When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever
restrains his lips is prudent.
- IV) For this reason, teaching the Word of God is **never to be taken lightly**
It is the teacher's responsibility to teach the Word **faithfully** and **thoroughly**
- V) The teacher **unapologetically** gives the whole counsel, aware it offends
This is simply part of thoroughly teaching the scriptures
Heb 4:12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged
sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it **judges** the
thoughts and **attitudes** of the heart.
- VI) The one who teaches is to be **fully aware** that he is handling God's word
Is 66:2b (God said) to this one I will look (**regard**), to him who is **humble** (needy)
and **contrite** (broken) of spirit, and who **trembles** (fearful) at My word
QUALIFICATIONS
- VII) God regards the one who is **needy**, **broken**, **crushed** and **fears Him** most of all
He honors the one who is not arrogant, self righteous, or proudly self sufficient
They tremble at His word, obeying it and treating it with honor and reverence
THE FACT IS
- VIII) **Handling God's word** is not to be taken lightly, or used as a way to gain prestige
It is taught by the broken one who knows their need for grace and forgiveness
- IX) This is why James warns teachers to **take heed** and understand **its seriousness**
They must make sure that their spiritual foundation is Jesus, and His word
1 Co 3:11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is
Jesus Christ.
- X) The **foundation** of their teaching is not **tradition**, **revelations**, Spirit inspired
messages, **prophecies**, the latest **cultural trends**

- I) It is not books, conventions, theatrical churches, famous preachers or numbers
Jesus must remain the foundation of the teacher, and the ministry
Is 28:16 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, **a sure foundation**; whoever believes will not act hastily.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT

- II) If people look only to **other people**, they are vulnerable to **false teachers**
- III) This took place in Corinth, when the church began to **exalt teachers**
Paul had to deal with it, telling the church to keep Jesus the center
1 Co 3:4-5 For when one of you says, I follow Paul, and another, I follow Apollos, are you not mere men? What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? **They are servants** through whom you believed, as the Lord has assigned to each his role.

TEACHERS POINT TO JESUS

- IV) They do this by teaching the **whole counsel of God**
Jer 26:2 Thus says the Lord: Stand in the court of the Lord's house, and speak to all the cities of Judah that come to worship in the house of the Lord **all the words** that I command you to speak to the; **do not hold back a word**
Ac 20:27 I have not shunned to declare to you the **whole counsel of God**

- V) Often those who are **listening** to the teaching are yet unskilled in the bible
Because of this, they can be vulnerable to manipulation, error, or deceit

- VI) They can be drawn by a **personality**, **speaking skills**, or **appearance**
Paul had to correct the Corinthians because they were impressed by arrogance
2 Co 5:12 Are we commending ourselves to you again? No, we are giving you a reason to be proud of us, so you can answer those who brag about having a spectacular ministry rather than having a sincere heart.

- VII) The false teachers were influencing the church to judge by outer appearance
2 Co 10:10 His letters, they say, are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible

- VIII) Paul said **outer appearance** and **impressive speech** isn't the measuring rod
2 Co 11:6 I may indeed be untrained as a speaker, but I do have knowledge. We have made this perfectly clear to you in every way
I may not be a polished speaker, but I am completely trained in the gospel

- I) Some are impressed with outer appearance or eloquence
Because of this, Jesus and God's word must remain the center of everything
1 Co 2:1-2 And I brethren when I came to you did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined **not to know anything among** you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified
- II) This would be why Paul would admonish teachers to be **faithful in the word**
2 Ti 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles **the word of truth**
- III) James is saying that **some** are carelessly taking it upon themselves to be teachers
He is warning them that they will receive **stricter judgment**
WHAT IDENTIFIES A TEACHER
- IV) V13 Who is **wise** and **understanding** among you? Let him show by **good conduct**
Remember: James is writing to a largely Jewish audience
- V) In the Jewish community wise and understanding is a way of **identifying a Rabbi**
It spoke of the one who had practical moral wisdom, built on a knowledge of God
THIS GIVES HIS MORAL QUALIFICATION
- VI) If a Bible teacher is truly teaching God's Word, his life **will match** his words
His way of life (**works**) evidences the truthfulness of what he is saying (**words**)
Heb 13:7 Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God.
Consider the outcome of **their way of life** and **imitate their faith**.
- VII) Paul was a rabbi, and he taught his students to imitate his way of life
Phil 3:17 Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example **you have in us**
1 Co 11:1 Imitate me as I also imitate Christ
- VIII) Paul taught Timothy and Titus, as pastors, **to be an example** to others
1 Ti 4:12 Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers **an example** in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity
- IX) The teacher is to be a consistent example of godliness
Titus 2:7 Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity
He is to be humble and an example of self control and integrity

- I) **QUOTE**: The wisdom that does not teach a man to govern his own spirit and to be humble in his conduct towards others is of no value.
- II) **Wisdom** is the ability to discern and apply knowledge, making sound judgments
- III) Wisdom can be gained over **time** by **experience**, and should be sought for
Ps 2:1-5 My son, if you **receive** my words, and **treasure** my commands within you, so that you **incline** your ear to wisdom, and **apply your heart** to understanding; yes, if you **cry out** for discernment, and **lift up** your voice for understanding, if you **seek** her a silver, and **search** for her as for hidden treasures; **then** you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God
- III) Notice the words that Solomon uses
Receive, treasure, incline, apply, cry out, lift up, seek, search, and then **find**
Then you will understand
- IV) **Wisdom** (learned) and **understanding** (experience) **identifies** the teacher
It is something that they are to be **known** for and are in **pursuit of**
Pr 4:7 **Wisdom** is the principal thing; therefore **get** wisdom. And in all your getting, get **understanding**
- V) The first step to godly wisdom is to have a relationship with God through Jesus
This is the source of all true wisdom
Pr 9:10 The fear of the Lord is the **beginning of wisdom** the knowledge of the holy is understanding
- VI) When you **genuinely** fear the Lord, your life will demonstrate this by obedience
Jn 14:15 If you love Me, keep My commandments
IT IS OPENLY SEEN
- VII) V13 Let him show by **good conduct** that his works are done in the meekness
The teacher should be known by wisdom, purity, humility and **gentleness**
Eph 4:2 Be humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.
REMEMBER
- VIII) **Godly wisdom** is never expressed by arrogance, intimidation or self-righteousness
It is demonstrated through meekness of spirit, the kind that Jesus had
Mt 11:29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am **gentle** and **lowly** in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

- I) The work of the word and the Spirit is to conform us into the image of Jesus
Mt 10:25 It is enough for a disciple that he **be like his teacher**, and a servant like **his master**
2 Co 3:18 As all of us reflect the Lord's glory with faces that are not covered with veils, **we are being changed into His image** with ever-increasing glory. This comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
- II) V14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts do not boast and lie
The proper role of the teacher is to encourage unity of spirit
This speaks of a spirit of ambition and contention: it refers to party spirit
- III) Jesus addressed this
Lu 9:49-50 Now John answered and said, "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow with us." But Jesus said to him, "Do not forbid him, for he who is not against us **is on our side.**"
THIS WARNS TEACHERS
- IV) Bitter envy resents others who have more gifts, attributes, possessions, or honors
It actually produces an argumentative and angry, self seeking spirit
This kind spirit is then transferred to the students, and they are also infected
- V) The disciples become like the teacher and are known for envy and arrogance
Any teacher of the word that harbors this is going to undermine the gospel
- VI) V14 Do not boast and lie against the truth
If this is the fruit of your teaching, do not boast about being a teacher
Nothing makes you more disqualified then this kind of fruit!
- VII) My first experience at Calvary: love was present
- VIII) V14 Do not boast and lie against the truth
You lie against the truth by ignoring what God says is the standard of a teacher
You glory in your success but are not producing godly disciples of Jesus
You are filled with envy and your disciples a divisive and contentious
- IX) V15 This wisdom does not **descend from above**, but is earthly, sensual, demonic
This kind of wisdom is not from God, but is actually the product of fallen nature
It reflects what demons have, but does not reveal the Spirit of God

- I) Wisdom that comes from God directs you into a blessed and fulfilled life
His wisdom directs you to a life that conforms to His will for you
Pr 2:6 For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding
- II) It is His wisdom found in His word and His Spirit that lead you
Ps 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path
- III) It is the wisdom of the fallen nature that exalts itself and the fruit is strife
It is the kind of heart that is not correctable and always defensive
Pr 12:1 Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid
- NOTICE**
- IV) V16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are
The fruit of ministry is confusion and strife, with no unity or stability
All love and peace disappears, and only anger and self promotion is allowed
- V) The unqualified or false teacher is often filled with bitter envy and self seeking
The fruit of their work is confusion and evil (ethically bad)
- VI) Because they are not seeking God's kingdom, they build their own kingdom
False teachers are devoid of humility and gentleness
- SADLY**
- VII) Their works are filled with ungodliness, competition, and division
This is often seen by the lives of their disciples
Genuine teaching produces unity and love, not division and comparisons
- VIII) V16 For where envy and self-seeking exist confusion and every evil thing will be
- IX) This is the chief fruit of someone trying to establish their own following
Jude 16 These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage.
Gal. 6:12-13 As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.

- I) V17 But the **wisdom from above** is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to **QUALITIES OF TEACHER**
- II) When God's peace rules the heart, all these virtues and graces grow and flourish
Pure: Sincere moral and spiritual purity
Peaceable: An inward peace that results in a freedom from strife with others
Gentle: Speaks of a sweet reasonableness, fair and considerate
Willing to yield: Open to persuasion, when the persuasion is to glorify God
Full of mercy: The quality of loving kindness
Good fruits: The desire to benefit others
Without partiality: Undivided in mind
Without hypocrisy
- III) V18 Now **the fruit of righteousness** is sown in peace by those who make peace
The heart of a genuine teacher is filled with love and the peace of God
- IV) He doesn't stir people to anger, but to service of Jesus and others
Is 32:17 **The work** of righteousness will be peace and **the effect of righteousness**,
quietness and assurance **forever**