



**Title: Practical Living: Earthly wisdom Vs. Heavenly wisdom**

**Scripture: James 3:13-18**

**Date: 7-1-2018**

**Bible Version: ESV**

**BOTTOM LINE: True wisdom is only found in Jesus Christ. He is the way, the truth, and the life.**

**Vs. 13**

**Wise and understanding-** Wisdom is more than head knowledge.

*Wisdom is the right use of knowledge. To know is not to be wise. Many men know a great deal, and are all the greater fools for it. There is no fool so great a fool as a knowing fool. But to know how to use knowledge is to have wisdom- Spurgeon*

**By his good conduct-** A truly wise person demonstrates their understanding of God by the way they live.

**Meekness-** The by-product of wisdom is meekness (gentleness of spirit).

**Vs. 14**

**Bitter jealousy and selfish ambition-** A desire to live for one's self and get caught up in the lie that life is all about me.

We weren't created for ourselves, we were created in God's image, to grow more like Christ.

**Matthew 16:24**

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

True wisdom is turning self-centeredness into God-centeredness. God is for his glory first.

*God is unique as the most glorious of all beings and totally self-sufficient, he must be for himself in order to be for us. If he were to abandon the goal of his own self-exaltation, we would be the losers. His aim to bring praise to himself and his aim to bring pleasure to his people are one aim and stand or fall together. – Piper*

It all starts with an understanding of who God is.

### **Proverbs 9:10**

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

### **Vs. 15**

**But it is earthly-** not of heaven. No thought for the eternal impact of ones' choices.

**Unspiritual-**not of God's spirit. No reliance of the Holy Spirit, but simply ones' own self.

**Demonic-** Destructive thinking and behavior based on lies of the Devil.

### **Vs. 16**

**Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist-** when we refuse to surrender our own selfish ambition and desire to be first, there will always be disorder and destruction.

*This is the fruit of human, earthly wisdom. The wisdom of the world, the flesh, and the devil may be able to accomplish things, but always with the ultimate fruit of confusion and every evil thing. – Guzik*

### **Vs. 17**

**Wisdom from above is first pure-** pure motives, no agenda.

**Peaceable, gentle-** a willingness to listen and bring peace in our relationships.

**Open to reason** – the opposite of self-seeking, but an ability to be flexible and learn from others.

**Full of mercy-** full of grace, not quick to judge.

**Good fruits, impartial, and sincere** – True wisdom has fruit in your life.

*This wisdom can be seen by the fruit it produces. It isn't just the inner power to think and talk about things the right way; it is full of good fruits. – Guzik*

**Vs. 18**

**A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace-** God's wisdom brings peace and unity in our world.

*If the Christian church is faithful to God's wise plan, it will be always in the forefront in breaking down racial and social barriers in societies around the world, and will thus be a visible manifestation of God's amazingly wise plan to bring great unity out of great diversity, and thereby to cause all creation to honor him. – Grudem*

### Three practical ways to grow in true wisdom

1. **Grow in your understanding of God** – increase your knowledge and understanding of God's word.

#### **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2. **Make community a priority-** surround yourself with Godly men and women that encourage and hold you accountable.

#### **Proverbs 11:14**

Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.

3. **Follow Godly leaders**- We need leaders who don't compromise the truth to help us navigate life.

**Hebrews 13:7-8**

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

**True wisdom is only found in Jesus Christ. He is the way, the truth, and the life.**

**1 Corinthians 1:30**

<sup>30</sup> And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

**Practical Living: Earthly wisdom Vs. Heavenly wisdom - James 3:13-18**

# 3D Guide

**BOTTOM LINE: True wisdom is only found in Jesus Christ.**

**DO. He is the way, the truth, and the life.**



1. What does this study reveal to you about God?
2. What does this study reveal to you about yourself?
3. Based on this, what changes do you need to make?
4. What is your prayer for today?

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**DISCUSS.**



1. How would you describe the distinction between the world's wisdom and the wisdom of God?
2. James speaks of selfish ambition. Is all ambition bad? What makes the ambition mentioned here so destructive?
3. Throughout the book of James there are many similarities to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. What qualities of true wisdom listed in James 3:17 are similar to the qualities of "blessed" people in Matthew 5:3-10?
4. What can you do this week to plant peace in a relationship or situation which has been troubling you?

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**DO.**



Anytime you read God's word you have to put things into perspective. You also have to realize that the terms, not words, have meanings. As a group re-read the scriptures that was studied. Try the Amplified Version and compare that to the NJKV, NIV, ESV, or NASB. Pick a few words and have a group member look that word up on [blueletterbible.com](http://blueletterbible.com) or with their app.

# Parents & Kids

TAKE **HOME**

**DATE:** July 1st, 2018

1. The Bible is a very special book and is the number 1 best selling book in the history of the world! The Bible is also broken up into sections called books. How many different books of the Bible are there? (66) What are the two main sections called? (Old Testament and New Testament)
2. What does the Bible tell us about? (Stories that tell us about who God is and how he wants us to live!)
3. What does the Old Testament tell us about specifically? (God's people) What does the New Testament tell us about? (How God sent his son Jesus to rescue his people and save us!)
4. Our memory verse for this series is, "Be good to me, your servant, so that I may live to obey your word. Open my eyes so that I can see all of the wonderful things in your teachings." -Psalm 119:16-18 What are some things we can do to open our eyes to the wonders of God's word?

**Memory Verse:** : "Be good to me , your servant, so that I may live to obey your word. Open my eyes so that I can see all of the wonderful things in your teachings." (Psalm 119:17-18)

