

## **Sermon Notes and Discussion Questions: The Wisdom of Faith**

In living our lives, we can follow worldly wisdom that's false or godly wisdom that's true. We must examine every thought and deed by the Lord's truth, the Word, and by no other standard.

**How would you define wisdom? How is wisdom gained?**

**What is the difference between the way the Bible defines wisdom and the way the world defines wisdom?**

The idea of wisdom brings to mind experience, knowledge, and sound judgment. From the world's perspective, wisdom can be gained as one grows in experience and knowledge and is able to make sound judgments based on these two areas. However, the Bible makes it clear that wisdom is not gained through mere experience and knowledge. True wisdom is gained as we grow in our experience with and knowledge of God. To gain true wisdom, we must look to God, the source of all wisdom.

**How is Solomon's life an example of true and false wisdom?**

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JAMES 3:13-18.

**What are the characteristics of false wisdom? Which of these traits do you most struggle with?**

**What are the characteristics of true wisdom? Which have you seen the Spirit of God producing in your life?**

The wisdom of the world is rooted in selfishness. While our culture disciplines us to believe that our determination, our truth, and our happiness are the most important priorities in life, these ideas run contrary to God's Word. All people were meant to find their ultimate purpose and delight in God. True wisdom means we embrace God's vision of how the world works.

God wants His people to follow Him into life via His commands. If you walk in true wisdom, you find life, and you're blessed by the Lord. If you walk in false wisdom, you hurt yourself, and you live in death.

**Focus on James's list of the characteristics of wisdom in verse 17. Which sticks out to you as most imperative in the church?**

**What would a conflict in the church look like if it were conducted wisely? How might a resolution in such a conflict be come to if it were conducted wisely?**

## APPLICATION

**How have you sought wisdom apart from God? How do you need to repent in light of this study?**

**How does worldly wisdom lead to conflict in relationships? How does true wisdom from God lead to unity in relationships?**

**How does seeking wisdom from above show the authority of Christ in your life to others?**

**Where in your life might you be depending on worldly wisdom instead of godly wisdom—finances? relationships? decision-making?**

## PRAYER

Confess the ways you have sought false wisdom from the world. Ask the Father to help you repent of this and turn to Him that He might give you true wisdom.