

**WOMEN IN THE WORD
FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH**

THE BOOK OF JAMES - Growing Up in Christ

Scripture Reference Notes – October 31, 2023

Lesson Six

Wisdom – James 3:13-18

Chapter Summary:

Chapter 1: Confident stand - What a Christian has.

Chapter 2: Compassionate service - What a Christian does.

Chapter 3: Careful speech - What a Christian says.

Chapter 4: Contrite submission – What a Christian feels.

Chapter 5: Concerning sharing – What a Christian gives.

James 3:13 – Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

James 3:13 (ESV) – Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.

Who is wise – having the ability to discern or judge what is true, right or lasting. (American Heritage Dictionary).

And understanding – a putting together in the mind, hence, understanding, practical discernment, intellect. (Strong's Concordance)

Proverbs 16:16 – How much better to get wisdom than gold, to choose understanding rather than silver.

Proverbs 16:22 – Understanding is a fountain of life to those who have it, but folly brings punishment to fools.

Remember 1:5 – In our trials, heavenly wisdom is what God gives when we ask. **“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.**

Tony Evans: “Wisdom is the application of heavenly knowledge to earthly living.”

Proverbs 17:27 – A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even-tempered.

Proverbs 15:21 – Folly delights a man who lacks judgment, but a man of understanding keeps a straight course.

Proverbs 3:13 – The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life turning a man from the snares of death.

Proverbs 11:2 – When pride comes, then comes disgrace but with humility comes wisdom.

Proverbs 23:23 – Buy the truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and understanding.

Moody Bible Commentary: “A person that is wise will show his wisdom through his good behavior.”

By his good life – good behavior – deeds – lifestyle.

Galatians 6:9 – Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

1 Peter 2:12 – Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Matthew 5:16 – In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

1 Timothy 6:18-19 – Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Titus 2:7 – In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness.

Titus 2:11-12 – For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say, “NO” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.

True wisdom comes from God.

1 Corinthians 3:18-20 – Do not deceive yourselves. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a ‘fool’ so that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God’s sight. As it is written: ‘He catches the wise in their craftiness, and again, The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.

1 Corinthians 1:25 – For the foolishness of God is wiser than man’s wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man’s strength.

1 Corinthians 1:27-29 – But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of the world and the despised things, and the things that are not, to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.

Proverbs 4:7 – Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.

Romans 12:2: Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 16:19 – Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I am full of joy over you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.

Ephesians 5:15-16 – Be very careful, then, how you live, not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity because the days are evil.

Humility that comes from wisdom – or meekness of wisdom – or gentleness of wisdom: wisdom is proved by godly living and is essential for holy living.

Hodges: “James’ readers were challenged to demonstrate wisdom by their lifestyle in that gentle spirit (prautes: meekness, gentleness, humility) which was always a mark of true wisdom.”

Philippians 2:3-5 – Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 1:22-25 – Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles; but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than man’s wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man’s strength.

Matthew 11:29 – Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

2 Timothy 2:24 – And the Lord’s servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.

Colossians 3:16 – Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

Colossians 4:5 – Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders, make the most of every opportunity.

Wiersbe – “Knowledge enables us to take things apart, but wisdom enables us to put things together and relate God’s truth to life.”

Isaiah 5:21 – Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight.

James 3:14 – But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.

James 3:15 – Such ‘wisdom’ does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil.

James 3:16 – For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

This is the one who lacks God’s wisdom:

Signs of the unwise – Harboring bitter jealousy/envy and selfish ambition in their hearts, lacking God’s wisdom.

To harbor means – keep (a thought or feeling, typically a negative one) in one's mind, especially secretly. Similar words: bear, nurse, nurture, cherish, entertain, foster, hold onto, possess, maintain and retain.

Bitter envy – jealous, resentment, aroused by another’s advantage or possessions.

Proverbs 14:10 – Each heart knows its own bitterness, and no one else can share its joy.

Proverbs 14:30 – A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.

Selfish ambition - Selfish ambition is focused on self and wants and desires of self. It centers on what self can get from a person, place, thing, or situation. Selfish ambition thinks of the self’s needs, wants, and desires above others and God.

Galatians 5:16-21 – (reminds us that our fleshly desires are at war with the Spirit). So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy, drunkenness, orgies and the like. I warn you, as I did before that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 3:3 – You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?

Jude 1:16 – These men are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.

Hodges: “Such conduct is a lie against the truth, since conduct only pretends to be in submission to the truth.”

Jeremiah 17:9 – The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

Earthly – (epigeios) of the earth – worldly measures of truth, earthly standards of success, material motives and temporal priorities.

Swindoll: “A wisdom that comes from a sinful heart.”

1 John 2:15-17: Do not love the world or anything in it. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world, the cravings of sinful man, the lust of the eyes and the boasting of what he has and does, comes not from the Father, but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

1 Corinthians 1:18-20 – For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God. For it is written: I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate. Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

Jude 1:19 – These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

Mark 7:21-22: For from within, out of man’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man ‘unclean.’

From vs. 15 - Unspiritual – or “natural. “soulish,” the inner human motives, our thoughts, attitudes, interests, and pursuits, human feelings and reasoning, not the Spirit’s wisdom from above” influenced and controlled by the Spirit, and the opposite of spiritual.

1 Corinthians 2:14 – The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Of the devil: (demonic) – the work of Satan, realm of Satan, wisdom that is from below.

1 John 5:19 – We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

Ephesians 2:1-3 – As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of the world and the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts.

Ephesians 4:17-18 – So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

Proverbs 9:10 – The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

And again - James 3:16 – For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and every evil practice.”

Results of the unwise: disorder and every evil (16) which are the consequences of envy and selfish ambition.

Disorder and confusion – unruliness

1 Corinthians 14:33 – For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace.

2 Corinthians 12:20 – For I am afraid that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be and you may not find me as you want me to be. I fear that there may be quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder.

Every evil practice – deed, event.

Matthew 15:19 – For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony.

Romans 13:13-14 – Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

Ephesians 5:6a – Let no one deceive you with empty words.

1 John 1:5 – This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

Swindoll: “In the wake of the unwise, we see waves of chaos, confusion, disharmony, antagonism, and pettiness, certainly not an example to follow.

Source of godly wisdom: Wisdom from above.

James 3:17 – But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

Heavenly wisdom from above: true wisdom – God’s wisdom.

James 3:17 from the Message: Real wisdom, God’s wisdom, begins with a holy life and is characterized by getting along with others. It is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings, not hot one day and cold the next, not two-faced.

Romans 16:25-27 – Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him, to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

1 Corinthians 1:30 – It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God, this is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

Ephesians 1:16-17 – I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of Wisdom and revelation so that you may know him better.

First, true wisdom is first of all **pure** (innocent, holy). First in the order of importance. Purity of thought and deeds. Pure and undefiled.

Matthew 5:8-9 – Blessed are the poor in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

NIV Study Bible: “Pure in heart, the center of one’s being including the mind, will and emotions,” with true devotion to God. Godly wisdom is pure and free from selfish ambition and envy.

Godly wisdom is peace-loving (yielding, promotes well-being, harmony with believers).

Proverbs 12:20 – There is deceit in the hearts of those who plot evil, but joy for those who promote peace.

Proverbs 14:30 – A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.

Proverbs 16:7 – When a man’s ways are pleasing to the Lord, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him.

Proverbs 17:1 – Better a dry crust with peace and quiet, than a house full of feasting with strife.

Psalms 29:11 – The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.

Psalms 34:14 – Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

Psalms 37:11 – But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy great peace.

Psalms 37:37 – Consider the blameless, observe the upright; there is a future for the man of peace.

Psalms 119:165 – Great peace have they who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble.

From study book: “God’s wisdom leads to peace and is based on holiness, not compromise.”

Proverbs 15:1 – A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Proverbs 25:15 – Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone.

2 Corinthians 10:1a – By the meekness and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you.

Galatians 5:22-23 – But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Ephesians 4:2 – Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Colossians 3:12 – Therefore, as God’s chosen people; holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

1 Timothy 6:11 – But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

From study book – reasonableness, carries the meaning of moderation without compromise, gentleness without weakness.

Submissive/reasonable/compliance (voluntarily yielding to another, accountability, teachableness, not demanding own way)

Ephesians 5:21 – Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

1 Corinthians 16:16 – to submit to such as these and to everyone who joins in the work, and labors in it.

Hebrews 12:9 – Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for that. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live.

From study book – “God’s wisdom makes the believer agreeable and easy to live with and work with.”

Full of mercy – controlled by mercy, love for neighbor, forgiveness, graciousness, compassionate.

Micah 6:8 – He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 7:18 – Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.

Zechariah 7:9 – This is what the Lord Almighty says, administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another.

Proverbs 28:13 – He who conceals his sin does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

Luke 6:36 – Be merciful, just as your father is merciful.

Titus 3:5a – He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.

Good fruit (godliness in action, fruitful deeds, the effect, or consequences of one’s work, serving others).

From study book: People who are faithful are fruitful.

Matthew 7:16 – By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

John 15:16 – You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.

Romans 7:4 – So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God.

Colossians 1:10 – And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way, bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.

Impartial (straightforward, undivided, without partiality, unwavering, single-minded, decisiveness).

Charles Erdman: “It is without variance, which probably means without vacillation or doubt or indecision or uncertainty but with definiteness of conviction.”

Sincere – stable, trustworthy, transparent, without hypocrisy, genuine, honest.

Ephesians 4:15 – Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

Acts 2:46 – Everyday they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.

Romans 12:9 – Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

Ephesians 6:5 – Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ.

Colossians 3:22 – Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.

Hebrews 10:22 – Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

1 Peter 1:22 – Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have a sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.

1 Corinthians 2:12 – We have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.

James 3:18 – Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

Peace – refers to relational harmony, peace with one another.

Harvest of righteousness – the fruits of our labors. We reap what we sow.

Hebrews 12:11 – No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Galatians 6:7-8 – Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

Proverbs 11:30 – The fruit of righteousness is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.

Psalm 85:10 – Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Matthew 5:9 – Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.
False wisdom (wisdom from below) reaps disorder and every evil thing. True wisdom (wisdom from above) results in (order)peace and in every good thing (righteousness).

Psalm 133:1 – How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity.

Isaiah 32:17 – The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever.

Philippians 1:11 – filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Hebrews 12:14-15 – Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy, without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

Romans 12:18 – If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

From the study book: “What we are is what we live, and what we live is what we sow. What we sow determines what we reap. If we live in God’s wisdom, we sow righteousness and peace, and we reap God’s blessings. If we live in man’s worldly wisdom, we sow sin and war, and we reap confusion and every evil work.”

Philippians 4:8-9 – Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me, put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

**Taken from *In His Image*
by Jen Wilkin:**

10 Ways God Calls Us to Reflect His Character

- Worldly wisdom self-promotes. Godly wisdom elevates others.
- Worldly wisdom seeks the highest place. Godly wisdom seeks the lowest place.
- Worldly wisdom avoids the mirror of the Word. Godly wisdom submits to the mirror of the Word.
- Worldly wisdom trusts in earthly possessions. Godly wisdom trusts in treasures in heaven.
- Worldly wisdom boasts. Godly wisdom is slow to speak.
- Worldly wisdom says trials will crush you. Godly wisdom says trials will mature you.
- Worldly wisdom says temptation is no big deal. Godly wisdom says temptation indulged leads to death.
- Worldly wisdom says, “Seeing is believing.” Godly wisdom says, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed” (John 20:29).
- Worldly wisdom wields might. Godly wisdom works in meekness.

In the NLT:

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. But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don’t cover up the truth with boasting and lying. For jealousy and selfishness are not God’s kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.

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

November 7 – Off for the Election Day
November 14 – Next Lesson – **God’s Will** – James 4:1-17