

Making Better Decisions

James 3:13-18

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.^[a]

Observations:

We make decisions every day

We make big decisions often

We shape our future by our decisions

We impact others by our choices

1. What is wisdom?

Wisdom is the application of knowledge in real world experiences.

2. There are 2 types of wisdom

--Man centered

--God centered

3. What are the differences?

A. --Man centered

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.

--Characteristics of man centered wisdom

¹⁵ For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom

Jealousy

Selfishness

--The source of bad decisions

Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic.

The here and now (Earthly)

The feel good (Unspiritual)

The devil (Demonic)

--What are the results of man centered wisdom?

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

Disorder

Evil

B. --God centered wisdom

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.

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.^[a]

--Characteristics of God centered wisdom

Purity

Peace

Gentleness

Humility/submissive

Merciful

Fruitful/productive

Impartial

Sincerity

--What are the results of God centered wisdom?

Peace

Righteousness

Close:

--How do we get wisdom?

James 1:5 If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.