

Together we seek wisdom

Proverbs 4:7 (KJV) *Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom:*

James 3:13a (ESV) *Who is wise and understanding among you?*

What is wisdom?

Knowledge is facts, information and experiences. Wisdom is the application of those facts.

“Knowledge is not bad, but knowledge is not enough. Knowledge is knowing the truth, wisdom is knowing what to do with it. Knowledge is theoretical; wisdom is practical. Knowledge fills your mind; wisdom guides your life. Knowledge is truthful; wisdom is useful. Knowledge provides information, wisdom provides transformation. Knowledge tells you what to believe, and wisdom tells you how to behave. You can have knowledge without wisdom, but you can’t have wisdom without knowledge. That’s why wisdom has very little to do with your IQ. There are smart people who make dumb decisions,” Mark Driscoll.

Wisdom is the ability to take things that are unrelated, and fit them into a relationship. Wisdom is the ability to take dissimilar things and put them into a whole.

Wisdom is the ability to relate what is known.

Wisdom is knowledge related, worked out, lived out.

Where does true wisdom come from?

Proverbs 9:10 (ESV) *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom...*

The beginning of wisdom is when your knowledge of God becomes something you’re relating to.

It’s when you’re relating the knowledge of God to you, to your life.

Vs 13b *By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.*

You don’t show your wisdom by your mere words, but by your whole life.

good - GK kalos (kah-lows’) it means beauty.

A good life occurs when all parts are related to the reality of who God is, what He has done, and your new identity in Him.

But now, James is going to talk about fake wisdom.

False wisdom is bogus, fake, fictitious, phony, imaginary, counterfeit, cooked up, and a sham, ghost wisdom, phantom wisdom - really not wisdom at all. It's a hallucination, apparition, and delusion.

Vs 14 *But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth.*

This doesn't seem beautiful, desirable or good, does it?

If the world revolves around you...you are not wise (stop thinking about that other person).

"I want to talk about me
Want to talk about I
Want to talk about number one
Oh my me my
What I think, what I like, what I know, what I want, what I see
I like talking about you, you, you, you usually, but occasionally
I want to talk about me
I want to talk about me," Toby Keith.

Selfish ambition - GK *eritheia*- strife - partying spirit - a politician canvassing for votes. "I have to get the people to choose my side - to win the votes - to be the one seen as right."

Jer. 9:23–24: "This is what the LORD says: 'Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me....'" (I can relate to God)

Vs 15 *This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.*

We have 3 enemies - The world, our flesh and the devil. Unholy trinity.

Ephesians 2:1–3 (ESV) *And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air...3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh...*

Earthly (world) - temporary - Esau sold something eternal for something temporary. It is unwise to trade something good and beautifully that's related to God for something that turns to human waste in 24 hours. We do it all the time.

Unspiritual (flesh) - No thinking of God - only the flesh - what you gain in the flesh you have to maintain in the flesh .

Demonic (devil) - from satan

Vs 16 *For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.*

Disorder - chaos - inability to relate things and inability to relate to God.

Examples of man's wisdom

- Tower of Babel - result was confusion
- Saul's armor on David - result was bitter jealousy
- The Roman experts in Acts 27 thought it wise to sail - the result was a storm and shipwreck
- Adam and Eve in the garden - result was chaos
- Lot chose Sodom - result was 'it all went up in smoke'

Vs 17 *But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.*

Man's wisdom comes from reason; God's wisdom comes from revelation.

Proverbs 3:19 (ESV) *The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding he established the heavens;*

There is wisdom behind the Word that spoke (or sang) the world into existence.

But how do we go up there to get it? We don't, God came down here to give it.

Vs 15 *This is not the wisdom that comes down from above*

John 1:14 (ESV) *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

On the cross, Jesus related the two things that could not be related any other way: God's love and his wrath, his truth and his love. Those things were irreconcilable, but in the most ultimate act of wisdom, he brought them together. As a result, he brought God and us together. That's wisdom.

Vs 18 *And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

How does your life relate to God? If it doesn't then the result is always chaos. If it does the result is a harvest of righteousness, peace, mercy and good fruits.

5 ways we can seek true wisdom together.

1. When enduring suffering, ask for wisdom.

James 1:2, 5 (ESV) *Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds...5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him*

2. Walk in community

Proverbs 11:14 (ESV) *Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.*

As we seek true wisdom together, we look at God's truth, His word, and we ask Him for wisdom on how to make disciples - how does your command relate to our lives. That's how MC came about by the way.

3. Seek the ultimate truth - God's word. Do that in community.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV) *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

4. Learn the gospel so you can apply it to your life with wisdom.

1 Corinthians 15:1–2 (ESV) *Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.*

5. Pray individually and pray in community. (journal)

Mark 11:24 (ESV) *Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.*

Proverbs 3:13 *"Happy is the man who finds wisdom"*