

HANDOUT PART 7: "WHERE TO GET WISDOM" JAMES 3:13-18

Today James contrasts True Wisdom, and False Wisdom in 3 different aspects. **Read James 3:13-18**

- The True Wisdom Comes from Above...But the False Wisdom Comes from Below.
- Believers **3** Enemies: the World, the Flesh, and the Devil
- There is much knowledge in this world, But there is Not Much Wisdom.
- Do Not Confuse the World's Knowledge and the World's Wisdom.
- **Henry David Theroux, "We Have Improved Means to Unimproved Ends!"**

Worldly Wisdom Knows Not God, And in Its Wisdom Rejects the Very Gospel of God. **1 Cor 1:18**

- Man's Wisdom comes from Reason...While God's Wisdom comes from Revelation **1 Cor 1:19,**
- Because the World has Turned from God, It has Lost its Wisdom. **Proverbs 9:10**
- **This False Wisdom's Source is Sensual, that is, it is Natural. The Opposite of Spiritual**

From Genesis 3 where Satan successfully deceived Eve, and throughout the entire Bible, there is a wisdom of Satan at work, Fighting Against the Wisdom of God. Rom. 1:18-25

- POINT: Satan is Cunning! His Worldly wisdom will Confound and Confuse You IF You Do Not Know the Wisdom of God. **THE KEY IS TO BE IN GOD'S WORD DAILY!**

Godly Wisdom. Ja 1:17 The Christian's Wisdom Does Not Look to the Philosophies of this World! **Col 2:2-3**

- **KEY:** True Spiritual Wisdom is from God! Wisdom from Any Other Source is to Ask for Trouble!
- There is NO Need to Get the Counterfeit Wisdom of the World, the Wisdom that Caters to the Flesh and Accomplishes the Work of the Devil. Get Your Wisdom from God!
- Vs 13,14 &17. Contrast Godly Wisdom from Above, from the Wisdom that is Earthly, Sensual, Devilish. **The Evidences of False Wisdom are Envy, Strife, Boasting and Deceit:**

Envy: Worldly wisdom says promote yourself. It Exalts Man and Rob's God of Glory! We ought to be zealous in the things of the Lord, But We Must be sure that Our Motives are Right. **1 Cor 1:29-31**

Strife: The Greek used this Word to describe a Politician out canvassing for votes. It was Self-Seeking! Self-seeking only creates rivalry and division in the church. **Philippians 2:3**

Boasting: Pride loves to boast and nothing is prouder than the wisdom of men. God's People Need to be Careful. There's a way to Report Blessings so that God gets the Glory, But there's Also an Approach that Gives the Praise to men. **Example Paul in 2 Cor. 10**

- **When God's wisdom is at work, there is a sense of Humility and Submission, and you want God to Get All the Glory.**

Deceit: Lie Not Against the Truth. Don't Follow the World's Wisdom to Promote Yourself. Don't Follow the World's Wisdom that is Self-Seeking. Rather, *Boast in the Lord!*

Verse 13 Gives Us a Challenge: Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by Deeds Done in the Humility that Comes from Wisdom.

- True Wisdom and Understanding are demonstrated through Actions, specifically good conduct, done with a Gentle and Humble Spirit. **It highlights the Connection Between Faith and Works,**
- Wisdom is Not just Intellectual Knowledge But is Also Expressed in How One Lives.
- **In Verse 17 James Provides Us with the Characteristics of Godly Wisdom.** Godly Wisdom is First Pure. Indicating the Importance of Holiness. Free from Defilement. **Ja 4:8, Purify your Hearts.**

Peace-Loving: KEY: If the Church is Pure, Devoted to God, Then There Will Be Peace. James 4:1-2

- Godly Wisdom is Full of Mercy and Good Fruit: Gifts of the Holy Spirit It Produces Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control.

Impartial: Shows No Favoritism James 2, *Treat Everyone with Equal Respect and Love.*

Godly Wisdom is Sincere: It is Genuine and Authentic: It is Characterized by a Deep Regard for God, a Commitment to Living a Virtuous Life, and a Desire to Positively Impact the World Around Them.

Considerate: God's Wisdom makes the Believer Agreeable. Easy to Live and Work with. **Man's wisdom** makes a person Hard and Stubborn. **The compliant person** is willing to hear all sides of a question, but he Does not compromise his convictions. He can Disagree Without Being Disagreeable. **James 1:19**

- With God's Wisdom, there is a willingness to listen, think, pray & obey whatever God Reveals.

Submissive: This aspect highlights a willingness to yield, not in a passive Way, but in putting the Needs of Others Before One's Own...It's about Humility and Recognizing that WE Don't Have All the Answers.

Full of Mercy: To Be Full of Something Means to Be Controlled By it. The one who follows God's Wisdom is controlled by Mercy. **Luke 6:36 God's Grace Gives Us what We Do Not Deserve...And His Mercy Does Not Give Us what We Do Deserve.**

Full of Good Fruits: Fruitful People are Fruitful. [John 15-BEAR MUCH FRUIT]

- KEY: God's Wisdom is Practical; it Changes the Life and Produces Good Work to the Glory of God!

Decisiveness: Suggest "Single-Mindedness" and is the Opposite of Wavering James 1:6

- ***When You have God's Wisdom, You Will Not Waiver! You Stand On Truth! You Will be Decisive! Wisdom from Above, Brings Strength from Above.***

Sincerity: The Greek word translated hypocrite means one who wears a Mask, an Actor. Wherever You Find God's People Pretending and Hiding, You Can Be Sure the Wisdom of this World is Governing their Ministry. ***Worldly Wisdom is an Abomination to God. Faith is Living Without Scheming.***

VS's 16,18 Contrast Outcomes: The Origin Will Determine the Outcome. Worldly wisdom will Produce Worldly Results; Spiritual Wisdom gives spiritual Results! POINT: Wrong Thinking Produces Wrong Living!

- Jealousy, Competition and a Party Spirit, all contribute to confusion. **The Tower of Babel in Gen11 is a Good Illustration of this Fact...** From Man's Point of View, the building of the tower was a Wise thing...BUT from God's Viewpoint, the Product was stupid and Sinful.
- Confusion Sets the Stage for Every Evil Work James 3:16. A Ministry Operating in the Wisdom of this World may appear to be successful, but in the day of Judgment, it Will Not Stand!

POINT: The Most Important Thing We Can Do at LifePoint Church is Measure Our Ministry by the Word of God...Not By the Wisdom of this World.

Vs 18. God's Wisdom Produces Blessings James Returned to the Word, **FRUIT.** There's a Vast Difference Between Man-made Results and God Given Fruit. Usually it's the Seed that's Sown, But here it's the Fruit that's Sown. As we share the Fruit of God with others, they're fed, and they in Turn Bear Fruit.

- The Christian Life is a Life of Sowing and Reaping. For that matter, Every Life is a Life of Sowing and Reaping, and We Reap just What We Sow.
- As We Obey God's Wisdom, We Sow, Righteousness, Not Sin! We Sow Peace, Not War! And the Lord Will Bring Righteousness and Peace Into the Lives of Others.
- What We Are Is What We Live and What We Live is What We Sow! **Prov 3:13**

If we live in God's wisdom, we sow righteousness and peace, and we reap God's blessing...However... If we live in man's worldly wisdom, we sow sin and war, and we reap confusion in every evil work.

"LIFE" POINT: When God's Wisdom is at Work in Us, We Will Be Willing to Listen, Think, Pray & Obey Whatever God Reveals.