

“True Wisdom vs. False Wisdom”

James 3:13-18

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Karl Pettit

“Don’t be false to the truth you profess to teach.”

William Barclay

Characteristics of false teaching:

“Such wisdom does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil...” **James 3:15 (NIV)**

Fanatical

Bitter

Selfishly Ambitious

Arrogant

The real scholar will be far more aware of what he does not know than of what he knows.

The wrong kind of wisdom issues disorder

“For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.” **James 3:16 (NIV)**

It is earthly

Characteristics of the natural man

It is of the devil

True wisdom is not just good advice, good ideas or ideals, or knowing which side of a debate is the right side. Wisdom is real when it is in motion.

True wisdom comes from God

“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.” **James 3:17 (NIV)**

Pure

Peaceable

Considerate

Submissive

Full of mercy and good fruit

Impartial

Sincere

Nothing good can grow in an atmosphere where men are at odds with one another.

“Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.” **James 3:18 (NIV)**

God shares with us Himself and His wisdom about right relationship which aims for reconciliation and restoration and so brings peace with God and with each other.

“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 (NIV)

Pause this week and look at where you go to find wisdom:

Person, book, place, website, etc.?

How often does God get first consideration?

May our faith and deeds on display reflect a people who seek to sow peace in the lives of those they touch.