
#8 “The Meekness of Wisdom”

James 3:13-18

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THE
**NO-NONSENSE
GUIDE**
TO AN
**EXTRAORDINARY
CHRISTIAN LIFE**
- THE BOOK OF
JAMES

Warming Up

1. Share from your life experience one significant situation when you acted wisely and another when you acted foolishly. Have some fun with it.

Digging In

2. *Are you living . . . a self-sufficient life that denies the truth (3:14b) . . . following the corrupted ways of this world (3:15) . . . resulting in a heart given to strife (3:14a, 16a) . . . and a life of ongoing sin and turmoil (3:16b)?*
 - What does spiritual self-sufficiency actually look like? “Believe in yourself!” is an incredibly common statement. Why is it problematic?
 - James describes wisdom that does not come from God as “earthly, unspiritual, demonic.” Unpack these terms. What is your response to his assessment?
 - How can the pursuit of earthly, rather than heavenly, wisdom lead to “bitter jealousy” and “selfish ambition” within the church?
 - Explain how a life of ongoing sin and turmoil is the FRUIT when denying the truth and pursuing your own way is the ROOT.
3. *Or are you living . . . a Christ-centred life that humbly pursues the truth (3:13c) . . . following the untainted ways of God’s kingdom (3:17) . . . resulting in a heart compelled to serve (3:13b) . . . and a life of goodness and peace (3:18)?*
 - Define “meekness” in your own words. What is the connection between godly wisdom and this character quality?
 - Steve Canfield writes: “Harmony is not the absence of differences but rather the absence of self-interest.” What does he mean? What do you think?
 - How does James describe “wisdom from above” in 3:17? Be sure that you understand each word/phrase. Why is “pure” first?
 - The wise person demonstrates that his/her heart is aligned with God’s in four specific areas of life. What are they? How is this showing up in your life?
 - What does it mean to experience peace with God? Read Romans 5:1-11 and Ephesians 2:11-22 for more on this important subject.

Breaking Out

4. What specific situation do you need wisdom for at this time? Are you pursuing your own wisdom or God’s wisdom? How do you know? Encourage and pray for one another in this regard. Remind yourself of the truth of James 1:5.



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