

Show me your faith

James 2:18

6. By Pursuing Right Relationships

James 3:13-18

13 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. 14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

17 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. 18 Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

1. Who is really wise?

▲ Wisdom will be claimed by Christians

James 3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you?

- ▼ You think you're wise in your relationships? – You might really be a spiritually discerning believer!
- ▼ You think you're wise in your relationships? – You might really be a selfishly deceived believer!

▶ Beware of the nature of prideful assumptions

Proverbs 16:2 All a man's ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the LORD.

1 Corinthians 8:2 The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know.

1 Corinthians 10:12 If you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!

▶ Beware of the necessity of purposeful acquisition

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

Psalms 25:4 Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths; 5 guide me in your truth and teach me,

Psalms 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me — 24 See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Romans 12:2 be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—

Ephesians 4:22 put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds;

1 Peter 1:13 prepare your minds for action; be self controlled;

▲ Wisdom will be confirmed by Christlikeness

James 3:13 Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

- ▼ Wisdom is revealed by hearty associations
- ▼ Wisdom is revealed by helpful actions and activities
- ▼ Wisdom is revealed by humble attitudes

2. What is real wisdom?

▲ There is a devilish wisdom – reject it

James 3:14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

- ▼ Reeking with selfishness and sensuality
- ▼ Replete with boasting and bullying
- ▼ Restricted to earthly evaluations
- ▼ Rooted in devilish deception
- ▼ Resulting in chaos and corruption

▲ There is a divine wisdom – receive it

James 3:17 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. 18 Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

- ▼ God's wisdom is pure in its motivation
- ▼ God's wisdom is peacemaking in its mission
- ▼ God's wisdom is packed with mercy
- ▼ God's wisdom is productive and medicinal

Action Assignments

1. Feast on the Scriptures
2. Focus on spiritual surrender and sweet-spirited submission
3. Flow in the Spirit