

## Lessons For The Church Lessons For You!

*“Wisdom Revealed in This or That!”*

Reference: **James 3:13-18**

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There are really only two kinds of wisdom. Which kind do you have? Which kind do you display? Which kind do you live? James tells us that those who are truly wise reveal their wisdom by the things they do. As we look at how the world’s wisdom compares with God’s Wisdom, we can ascertain the best way to make an informed decision about how to live our lives.

References: **James 1:5; 2:17**

What James says here in chapter 3 is in light of what he has said in chapter 1 & 2.

This morning, let’s listen as James contrasts three areas or “Divisions” of “Wisdom” that is from God and the “wisdom” that is from the world.

**FIRST DIVISION: MOTIVES** – what drives wisdom (**vv.14, 17a**)

- worldly wisdom: bitter envy, strife
- godly wisdom: purity (literally - holiness)
- jealousy, divisiveness
- ambition, self-promotion.
- holiness: being like God
- not self-seeking.

**SECOND DIVISION: CHARACTERISTICS** – what describes wisdom (**vv. 15, 17b**)

- earthly (of the world), sensual (of the flesh), devilish (of the devil)
- peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy, full of good fruit, without partiality, without hypocrisy
- These two lists are exact opposites.
- Each produces works, but of very different kinds.
- 1 John 2:15-17
- Actions speak louder than words
- Talk is cheap.

**THIRD DIVISION: RESULTS** – what defines (or reveals) wisdom (**vv.16, 18**)

- confusion and every evil work
- fruit of righteousness, peace
- One is worthless, the other is priceless.
- **Ephesians 4:3** *“eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”*
- The work of the church cannot progress without the practice of godly wisdom.
- Godly wisdom not only makes the individual right with God, it makes the church effective in the world.

**CONCLUSION:** Confession without practice is worthless. Truly wise people do wise things. *“Thus you will recognize them by their fruits”* (**Matt. 7:20**)

**WHAT’S THE TAKE HOME?** What are you doing for the good of the body of Christ? Are you demonstrating Godly wisdom by the things that you do? Do your actions match your words?

It is one thing to say that you love Jesus, but it is entirely something else to reveal it, show it, and live it.

*That their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God’s mystery, which is Christ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

**Colossians 2:2-3**

All Scripture is from the English Standard Version unless otherwise stated.