

The Letter of James: Transformed by Christ

What is the Source of Your Wisdom?

Wisdom is our *informed* way of living that should be seen and felt by those around us.

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

(James 3:13-18)

What is the Source of Your Wisdom?

Outline:

1. Wisdom Warrants Action (v.13-14)
2. Wrongful Wisdom Sources and their Effects (v.15-16)
3. Heavenly Wisdom Produces Righteousness (v.17-18)

1. Wisdom Warrants Action

- By our good conduct, the way we live day-to-day, should be evidence that Christ is our source.
- The absence of *meek wisdom* will produce disorder and dissension within our community.
- If there is jealousy and selfish ambition present in your life then there is an issue at your source.

1. Wisdom Warrants Action

When was the last time you confessed your comfortability with jealousy or your friendship with selfish ambition?

2. Wrongful Wisdom Sources and their Effects

The Earthly Source –

- We cannot be people of this world living according to its value system without compromising our commitment to the gospel!

2. Wrongful Wisdom Sources and their Effects

The Unspiritual Source –

- This is where we must battle our own flesh and invite the Holy Spirit to permeate through our whole self – mind, will and emotions.

*When did you last prayerfully purge your sinful/fleshly desires from within you?

2. Wrongful Wisdom Sources and their Effects

The Demonic Source –

- It is at this origin that we must come under God's sovereign, providential, grace-filled authority over our life!

2. Wrongful Wisdom Sources and their Effects

The Effect –

- If jealousy and selfish ambitions are left *unaddressed* and *unconfessed* they will not only impair us but also our community.

3. Heavenly Wisdom Produces Righteousness

- The fruit which should be flowing out of us as Christians should stand in stark contrast to the fruit of wisdom not from above.

*Is the fruit that you are producing different from the fruit of an unbeliever?

3. Heavenly Wisdom Produces Righteousness

- We must do the tiring work of tilling the ground of our own lives in order to reap a harvest that is pleasing to God in our lives and amongst our community.

*Are you a peacemaker?

What is the source of your wisdom?