

21 April

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: James – week 7



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member the difference between God's wisdom and man's wisdom?
2. How can we show our wisdom according to v.13? **(Who is wise among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.)**
3. What are the characteristics of false wisdom in v.14? **(Bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not boast and be false to the truth "lies.")**
4. What is the origin of true wisdom according to James in v.15? **(From above. From God who is in heaven.)**



Let's go deeper

5. What is the origin of false wisdom according to v.15? **(False wisdom is not from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, and demonic.)**
6. What is the result of false wisdom in v.16? **(Where jealousy and self-ambition exist, there will be disorder "confusion" and every vile practice.)**
7. What are the characteristics of true wisdom in v.17? **(First pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy, and good fruits, impartial and sincere).**
8. What is the result of true wisdom according to v.18? **(And a harvest of righteousness "spiritual maturity" is sown in peace by those who make peace "by actively encouraging goodwill between individuals.")**



Let's apply this

**9. James 3:16;** Amplified: For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder (unrest, rebellion, confusion) and every evil thing and morally degrading practice.

Selfish ambition is the opposite of a servant's ambition. Jesus had a lot of ambition, but it was a servant's ambition for God's glory and our good and not a selfish ambition for His own glory and ease. The world is filled with selfish ambition and really does need servant's ambition for God's Kingdom.

- Are there areas of your life where you have selfish ambition?
- How can you replace that with Godly ambition?

SUMMARY:

James: Week 7 – Two kinds of wisdom

Read: James 3:13 – 18

**v.15; What is the origin of wisdom from below?**

Wisdom that is earthly (for this life only, temporary, and of no eternal value), unspiritual (fleshly and man-made wisdom without input and leading of Holy Spirit), demonic (wisdom that is opposite to God and His Word, lies and deception).

**What is the origin of wisdom from above?**

The believer looks up to heaven for all that he needs (Col.3:1). Wisdom from above starts with Jesus Christ, He is our wisdom (Col.2:3). We find wisdom in the Word of God (2 Tim.3:15). We find wisdom in prayer (James 1:5). We find wisdom from the Holy Spirit (Eph.1:17). The origin of true spiritual wisdom is God.

**v.14; What are the characteristics of false wisdom?**

Bitter jealousy and selfish ambition. These words refer to someone who has a critical, contentious, and fight-provoking manner. This kind of false wisdom focus on promoting and exalting yourself in a zealous way. The worldly wisdom exalts man and robs God of glory. False wisdom loves to boast, because it is rooted in pride. Boasting that is rooted in pride leads to lies.

**False wisdom** starts with selfish ambition that leads to criticism and self-promoting, and that leads to boasting; and boasting usually involves lies!

**v.13 & 17; What are the characteristics of true wisdom?**

**Meekness;** is the right use of power, and wisdom is the right use of knowledge.  
**First pure;** God's wisdom leads to purity of life. Man's wisdom leads to sin.  
**Then peaceable;** God's wisdom leads to peace. Man's wisdom leads to competition. God's wisdom says, "confess your sin and My peace will lead and guide you." Man's wisdom says; "cover up your sin."

**It is gentle;** it does not cause deliberate fights, but neither compromise truth.

**Open to reason;** when God's wisdom is at work, there is a willingness to listen, think, pray, and obey whatever God reveals.

**Full of mercy;** to be full of something means to be controlled by it. The person who follows God's wisdom is controlled by mercy (withholding punishment).

**Full of good fruits;** God's wisdom is practical; it changes the life and produces good works that can be seen to the glory of God.

**It is impartial** (unwavering); God's wisdom bring strength from above.

**It is sincere;** when God's wisdom is at work, there is openness and honesty.

**v.16; The result of false wisdom** is jealousy / envy, selfish ambition (strife / competition), disorder / confusion, and that sets the stage for every evil work.

**v.18; The result of true wisdom** is righteousness not sin, and peace not war.