

Questions

1. Give a Bible-based description of the word *wisdom*.
2. Take the subject of sexual immorality as an example. What principles from God's Word should frame our thinking about right and wrong when it comes to sexual sin, and how do those principles tend to differ from earthly wisdom when looking at the same subject?
3. According to God's wisdom, how do good conduct and meekness (humility) go together?
4. What does James 3:14 mean by "bitter jealousy and selfish ambition," and how do those become ruling traits in the heart of one who is led by man's wisdom?
5. Bitter jealousy and selfish ambition may crop up in our view of possessions, but these traits can also be attitudes that create dissension. Can you think of ways in which you have been sinfully envious of qualities in another person, or have thought your traits were superior to those of another person?
6. Consider the character traits in 3:17-18 and ask another believer who knows you well to help you evaluate how evident these fruits are in your life. Are there areas where you especially struggle to bear such fruit?
7. What is the fruit of Godly wisdom within the body of believers?

*After each service, if you need prayer,
someone will be available up front to pray with or for you.*

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James

Street-Level Faith

Wisdom's Fruit

James 3:13-18

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James 3:13-18 teaches that my way of thinking is rooted in my source of wisdom. AND, how I think will be shown through the fruit of my words and actions.

James asks and answers two questions in the final verses of chapter 3: Who is wise and understanding among you and who is foolish and lacks understanding?

What is the source of your wisdom? On what authority do you base your conclusions about life, and about what's good and bad, and right and wrong?

The connection between good conduct and humility (3:13)

Bitter jealousy and selfish ambition rule the heart of one who is led by man's wisdom, and produce corresponding fruit (3:14-16).

Godly wisdom is marked by good conduct and humility and is evident in character traits (3:17-18):

1. Pure

2. Peaceable

3. Gentle

4. Reasonable

5. Merciful

6. Good fruit

7. Impartial (Not discriminating)

8. Sincere (Not pretending)