

"Godly Wisdom"

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James 3:13-18 NIV

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.

There are Two Kinds of Wisdom:

I. Worldly Wisdom

Worldly wisdom says, "Get all you can. Look out for # 1. Take it if you want it. You deserve it more than they do." That wisdom is from the devil. It goes against God's ways, and His people should have nothing to do with that kind of thinking.

Worldly wisdom tells us it's ok to be envious of what other people have. Worldly wisdom says it's ok to only look out for yourself. People with "worldly wisdom" don't care who they hurt as long as they get what they want. That is the devil's way, not God's.

James 3:16 NIV For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

James 3:16 KJV For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

When you follow the devils pattern; which is to look out for number one, then your life will be filled with confusion and disorder, and evil. If you look out only for yourself, you will be a miserable person, and you'll never be satisfied. Not only that, but you won't be able to maintain a healthy relationship with God.

God wants you to have an awesome life, to enjoy life, and to have a great friendship with Him. Because He cares about us, God teaches us a better kind of wisdom, Godly wisdom.

II. Godly Wisdom

James 3:17 NIV 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.

Godly Wisdom Is:

1. PURE

When you have Godly wisdom you choose to dwell on pure thoughts. That means that every time the enemy throws an evil thought in your mind, you kick it out.

2 Cor. 10:5 NIV We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Take captive every thought. Rule your thoughts, instead of letting your thoughts rule you. A wise person once said, "A bird can fly over your head, but don't let it build a nest in your hair." That's how it is with impure thoughts. Often the devil will whisper an evil thought into your ear, but you don't have to dwell on it, or act on it. Focus on pure thoughts, things that would please God.

Also, watch what you look at, and listen to. What you see and hear affects your thinking.

2. Godly Wisdom is... **PEACE LOVING**

As God's people we must seek peace in our thoughts and actions. We shouldn't want to stir up trouble. Instead we should seek peace with everyone if possible.

Hebrews 12:14 NIV

Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

Godly wisdom tells us that we should try to get along with people. We shouldn't destroy our enemies, we should pray for our enemies. We shouldn't cuss at people and call them names, we should bless people. We shouldn't start fights, we should turn the other cheek. God's way is the way of peace.

Ask: Does that mean that we should compromise what we believe to make people happy??? Absolutely not... I would die for my faith, before I would deny it. We must stand firm in what we believe, that is one thing that is never compromised for the sake of peace.

3. Godly wisdom is... **Considerate**

Worldly wisdom says, look out for number one. Godly wisdom says think about other people. Look out for the needs of others. The first commandment is to Love God. The second greatest commandment (mark 12:31) is "Love your neighbor as yourself..."

4. Godly wisdom is... **Submissive**

Godly wisdom knows that God is the one that gave us people of authority in our lives. If we walk in Godly wisdom we will seek to

always be submissive to the authorities that God has put in our lives.

Ask: What are some of the people in authority in our lives???

At school? principal, teachers. At home? parents/ guardians
At church? Pastors, leaders. In our Nation? President, national leaders. At work? Boss, owner, managers. In our lives? God's word, the Holy Spirit.

Romans 13:1 NIV

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

Ephes. 6:2 NIV

"Honor your father and mother"--which is the first commandment with a promise—

Ask: What is the promise? Long earthly life...

5. Godly wisdom is... Full of Mercy and Good fruit

We show mercy when we love people that don't love us. We show mercy when we forgive someone that has hurt us (especially when they don't deserve our forgiveness). We show mercy when we don't hold a grudge against someone, but choose instead to let it go. When we forgive and show mercy we are more like Christ. He forgave us and showed us mercy that we don't deserve. When we do the same for others we are walking in Godly wisdom.

Galatians 5:22-23 NIV

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

6. Godly wisdom is... **Impartial and Sincere**

In other words we don't treat some people better than others. We don't look down on people just because they are poor, or maybe aren't part of the "cool crowd". Being impartial means that we give everybody the same chance.

Being sincere is being for real. That means that you do what you say. You live out what you believe. Your word can be trusted, and nobody has any reason not to trust you. Being for real is being a person of character. You are the same person all the time. It doesn't matter if no one is watching, or if you are in a crowd, you always try to do the right thing. That is sincerity. It is the opposite of being a hypocrite. **If you have Godly wisdom, you will be real, not a fake.**

Conclusion:

All these things add up to Godly wisdom. As we grow in Godly wisdom we'll seek peace and purity. We'll submit to God-given authority. We'll consider the needs of others. We will learn to show mercy, and bear good fruit. We will give everybody a chance, and we'll always be sincere. These are things that we should constantly pursue, and with God's help each one of us can walk in Godly wisdom.