

Faith & Wisdom

PASTOR MIKE YODER • JAMES 3:13–18

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

James 3:13

But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.

James 3:14

Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

James 3:15

For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

James 3:16

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.

James 3:17



Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

James 3:18

**True wisdom results in
good living. (3:13)**

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 1:7

Not one's *orthodoxy* (right preaching) but one's *orthopraxis* (right living) is the mark of true wisdom.

D. Edmund Hiebert

Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak and to remove all doubt.

Abraham Lincoln

Being wise does not mean we understand everything that is going on because of our superior knowledge, but that we do the right thing as life comes along.

R. Kent Hughes

My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ,

Colossians 2:2

in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Colossians 2:3

**Earthly wisdom results in dissension
and destruction. (3:14–16)**

Zeal can easily become blind fanaticism, bitter, strife, or a disguised form of rivalry and thus jealousy; the person sees himself as jealous for the truth, but God and others see the bitterness, rigidity, and personal pride which are far from the truth.

Peter Davids

Envy and selfish ambition among the leaders have tremendous potential to damage the unity and order of the church as a whole.

Douglas Moo

Behind this “wisdom” marked by jealousy, crafty party factions, and egotistical boasting, James detects the work of the demons in seeking to corrupt the harmony and very life of the Body of Christ.

D. Edmund Hiebert

**Heavenly wisdom reflects itself
in purity and peace. (3:17,18)**

For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Proverbs 2:6

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better.

Ephesians 1:17

In a general sense, what Paul claims that the Spirit produces, James claims true wisdom produces.

Where there is strife, there is pride, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

Proverbs 13:10

A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to overlook an offense.

Proverbs 19:11

What we are is what we live, and what we live is what we sow. What we sow determines what we reap. If we live in God's wisdom, we sow righteousness and peace, and we reap God's blessing.

Warren Wiersbe

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:3



“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

Matthew 5:4



“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”

Matthew 5:5

*“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.”*

Matthew 5:6



“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”

Matthew 5:7



“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”

Matthew 5:8

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

Matthew 5:9

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:10

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.”

Matthew 5:11

“Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Matthew 5:12

**Genuine wisdom is supernatural
and fosters peace wherever it goes.**