



James

Living Right in a Wrong World!

Living Right with Wisdom!

James 3:13-18

Message #9 of 15 – S971

Sermon given on November 14, 2021



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

Living Right with Wisdom!

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Opening Comments

- Turn to **James 3**
- Today, we continue the series: **James - Living Right in a Wrong World!**
- Last week we talked about the importance of the words we use
- We have an enemy – the devil seeks to use words as a weapon against our soul
- The very first temptation – of Eve in the Garden – was to challenge the words God had spoken to them
- This is still going on today – words are being redefined to call into question God’s good promises
- The Bible refers to children as a gift from God
- Our culture, by manipulating the words, turns them into something a woman can choose to keep or get rid of
- A book on language in the culture is **SPEECHLESS: Controlling Words, Controlling Minds** by Michael Knowles
- One of the ways we live right in a wrong way world is through the proper use of our words
- James topic today tells us what we need so that we are using the right words in the right way at the right time
- Let’s pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help us
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **Living Right with Wisdom!**
- Our topic for this morning is wisdom
- The Bible has a lot to say about wisdom and about the people who lack it **Psalm 111:10**

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do *His commandments*. His praise endures forever.

- The opposite of a wise person is a fool **Proverbs 15:7**

The lips of the wise disperse knowledge, but the heart of the fool *does not do so*.

- It shouldn't surprise you which one you will need to be to live right in this wrong way world
- Wisdom is the correct application of knowledge
- Just having knowledge will not make you wise
- Stephen Hawking was one of the most intelligent men of the last century
- And yet he believed that the universe created itself from nothing
- There was nothing, and then the universe which didn't exist decided to create itself – that is not wisdom - foolish
- **James 3:13**
- Continuing in his theme of having a faith that works, James is saying that wisdom is clearly seen by 'good conduct...in meekness of wisdom'
- To many in this world meekness is equivalent to weakness
- Quite the opposite – meekness is power under control
- Jesus was power-incarnate and yet He was very meek
- Isaiah speaking of the Messiah – Jesus **Isaiah 53:7**
He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.
- He could have called legions of angels to His defense – that is meekness
- That is not what we see coming from many in this world, especially in our government and corporations
- **James 3:14**
- Bitter envy and self-seeking are signs of using the wrong kind of wisdom.
- 'do not boast' – Do not say you are wise if bitter envy and self-seeking is in your heart because you are lying to yourself and the rest of the world.
- James then focuses on knowing the source of the wisdom we are using
- **James 3:15**
- James is separating wisdom into two types – worldly wisdom and Godly wisdom
- Worldly wisdom measures wisdom based on its impact on you.

- It is about advancing yourself, pleasing yourself, promoting yourself.
- James warned against partiality earlier in his epistle.
- He used the poor as an example.
- To show partiality to the rich and not to the poor is a sign that you don't think the poor have anything to offer you, but the rich do.
- That is earthly wisdom at work.
- Three characteristics of worldly wisdom: earthly, sensual, and demonic
- 'earthly' = relates to things of the earth.
- Not focused on the things of God, heaven, or eternity.
- Like the legalization of 'recreational drugs'.
- The courts and jails are filling up with people charged for possession of marijuana – so make it legal, frees up the police to go after other crimes and we can control the flow of marijuana.
- 'sensual' – pertaining to the senses.
- The flesh (our sin nature) desires what the flesh can experience.
- Same-sex marriage – even some Christians thought it was okay because gay people just wanted to be happy, and they didn't want to be alone.
- 'demonic' = of the devil.
- The devil's 'wisdom' will confound and confuse those who try to use it.
- Wisdom from the devil is not just another type of wisdom, its nature is of the same as Satan's **John 8:44**
You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.
- Satan's wisdom is based on a lie – that's all he can do.
- A woman's right to choose what happens with her body, according to this demonic wisdom, includes killing her baby while it is in her womb because it is unplanned, inconvenient to her career, the wrong gender, or will be born with a handicap.
- James then tells us the result of worldly wisdom
- **James 3:16**

- Envy and self-seeking are what led Cain to killing Abel.
- Confusion and evil are signs of earthly wisdom at work.
- They have no place in a believer's life, marriage, family, or church. **1 Corinthians 14:33**

For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

- Satan is the author of confusion **1 John 1:5**

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

- Light is used in the Bible as a picture of holiness, purity, and goodness
- Darkness is the opposite – evil, sin, wrongdoing
- After giving us three characteristics of worldly wisdom James gives us eight characteristics of Godly wisdom

- **James 3:17**

- Some wisdom can be acquired through intellectual effort and personal experience, but the wisdom from God surpasses it all.
- This is one of the reasons why prayer is so important.
- We don't know everything God knows about the things we are praying about.
- We need God's wisdom which is infinitely greater than ours so that we can live right in this wrong way world.
- This kind of wisdom is accessed through God-centered humility. **1 Peter 5:6-7**

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷ casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

- Humility before God is the doorway through which Godly wisdom flows
- We can examine what is put forth as wisdom using this list of characteristics.
- Critical Theory is a good example of this.
- It sees any inequity within systems as a sign of oppression.
- The conclusions CT or CRT draw fail to meet any of the characteristics of wisdom from above.
- The very nature of human nature means there will always be unequal outcomes because of our ability to make our own choices.
- One good or one bad choice can change the outcome of your life.

- The only way to make outcomes become equal is to eliminate all choice.
- But even then, people's God-given abilities (different for everyone) will make outcomes vary.
- What CT or CRT seeks to achieve is humanly impossible
- And the last verse makes it clear that theories like this are earthly, sensual, or demonic
- **James 3:18**

- Five times in the New Testament God is referred to as the God of peace **Philippians 4:9**

The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

- One of the ways you can determine what type of wisdom is at work is by its goal and by the fruit it produces.
- The goal of godly wisdom is peace, with God and others, and it results in righteousness.
- Godly wisdom produces results that are pleasing to God and are good for the people of God.
- It will also be good for those who are not God's people though they might not appreciate that.
- Peace can never be at the expense of truth.
- For example: Referring to a man who says he believes he is a woman as a woman is not using wisdom from above because it involves lying about the reality of the man's true God-given identity.
- We are called by God to speak the truth in love
- Next time James is going to tell us what happens when we are not using godly wisdom in our relationships – no peace!
- Pastor Randy is going to come up shortly and lead us in Communion
- Each of us needs to take some time and examine our lives and determine what type of wisdom is most pronounced in our lives
- Are you at peace with God?
- Is the 'fruit of righteousness' visible in your life?
- If there is sin in your life that you haven't repented of than the answer is no! Repent!

- Is your heart at peace within you? Maybe you have been trying to use the world's wisdom to solve your problems **Philippians 4:6-7**
Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
- Are you at peace with others? **Matthew 5:9**
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
- Paul told us in Romans that it might not always be possible, but are you doing your part to make peace using Godly wisdom
- Communion is a perfect time to examine yourself
- If you need wisdom – ask God for it
- Pray