



Leader

9/27 - James 3:13-18

LOVE

A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)

- *Internal*: How was your week? Any new life updates? How was your walk with the Lord this week?
- *External*: Practically, is there any individual or family that needs encouragement from us as a group?

TRUTH

Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?

[\[Open Discussion\]](#)

2. Let's read our primary text. How does James define genuine wisdom in verse 13. What is the proof of wisdom?

James doesn't ask people to claim wisdom but to demonstrate it: "By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom." As in 2:14–26, the pattern repeats, an inward reality (wisdom) must be verified by an outward life (works), and specifically by *meekness* (humility, gentleness of spirit), not self-assertion. Real wisdom is visible in how someone lives and treats others, not in what they claim to know.

3. What is "the meekness of wisdom," and why is meekness important?

Meekness is strength under control; humble, gentle strength that does not force its own way. It is the opposite of arrogance. True wisdom produces this spirit and without it, claims to wisdom are empty.

4. Why does James describe this false wisdom as "earthly, unspiritual, demonic"? How does heavenly wisdom contrast with the results of earthly wisdom?

False wisdom originates from the fallen world ("earthly"), operates according to natural human desires without the Spirit ("unspiritual"), and ultimately aligns with demonic influence. It is the opposite of wisdom that "comes down from above" (See also Colossians 3:1-4). Earthly wisdom produces disorder and evil practices; heavenly wisdom produces peace, gentleness, mercy, good fruit, fairness, and sincerity. One destroys community; the other builds and heals it.

5. List the other qualities of heavenly wisdom in verse 17. Which ones stand out to you as most needed in relationships? Do you think James put them in this order for a reason?

Peaceable, gentle, open to reason (willing to yield or be persuaded), full of mercy and good fruits, impartial, and sincere (without hypocrisy). These qualities promote harmony and genuine care rather than conflict. [Pureness of heart is the foundation for the others that follow.]

6. How does verse 18 tie this whole passage together?

"A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace" pictures righteous outcomes (in a person's life and community) as a crop that only grows from seeds of peace, planted by peacemakers. It closes the section by contrasting the two "harvests": earthly wisdom sown in

jealousy and ambition reaps disorder and vile practice (v. 16); heavenly wisdom sown in peace reaps righteousness. It's James's summary verdict...you can tell which wisdom someone is operating from by what it ultimately produces.

7. How do our everyday words and actions reveal whether we are operating from earthly wisdom or wisdom from above? Who in your life could give you honest feedback on this?

[\[Open Discussion\]](#)

8. James says a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. Are you sowing peace? What "seed" of peace can you intentionally plant today in your home, workplace, church, or online interactions?

[\[Open Discussion\]](#)

9. Any other thoughts you would like to share before we wrap up this text?

[\[Open Discussion\]](#)

GREAT COMMISSION

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)

- *Internal*: Did you make time to disciple your family this week? Pray with them?
- *External*: Is your life marked by joy/contentment? Are you prepared to share the gospel if the Holy Spirit prompted? Is the name of Jesus on your lips in your day-to-day activity?

CONFESSION/PRAYER/REPENTANCE

But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today,"... (Heb. 3:12-14)

- Confession is agreeing with God about our sin according to the Scriptures. Is there anything you want to confess before the group (generally)? [*apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger, envy*]
- Let's pray, asking God to help us apply His word to our lives.

Sources:

- ESV Study Bible Commentary
- GotQuestions.org
- Multiple AI Resources