

Faith That Works
IS HUMBLE AT THE CORE
10/14/07



Text: James 3:13-18

“Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth.¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”

Wisdom’s “Taproot” is GOD (HE is the source, the origin of true wisdom)

Cross references: Proverbs 8:22ff; Daniel 1:17, Daniel 2:20-23; Job 28:12, 28; Colossians 2:3; Romans 11:33; 1 Corinthians 1:24, 30, et al.

There are Artificial “Pretenders” out there

Check out Ecclesiastes....

DISTINGUISHING MARKS – James 3:13-18

• **Man’s Wisdom (v.14-16)**

• **Godly Wisdom (v.13, 17)**

RESULT (v.18)

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION THOTS

The church James wrote to was a church under pressure. When under pressure, a church can split into factions. There was no formal clergy or ordination process, so self-styled teachers could emerge, claiming to have wisdom. As each teacher promoted his brand of wisdom and gained a following, the community of believers was divided.

Check out Proverbs 8 for a fuller descriptive of wisdom. The first twenty-one verses deal with wisdom’s excellence. Verses 1–3 speak of its excellence in appeal; verses 4–12 of its excellence in truth; verses 13–16 of its excellence in what it loves and hates; and verses 17–21 of the excellence of its gifts to those who possess it.

There are seven characteristics of godly wisdom listed in James 3:13-18.

A) Please identify them.

B) Find Scripture elsewhere that either lists or reveals them.

C) Observing the life of Christ, where do these qualities show up?