

I. BIBLE: TRUE WISDOM (James 3:13-18)

A. CLAIMS TO WISDOM (3:13; see 2:18)

1. presumptuous teachers (3:13,1; see 2Cor.11:12)
2. show wisdom in whole & in parts (3:13b; see 2:18; Mt.7:15f)

B. FALSE CLAIMS (3:14b; see 14-16)

1. motive: pride (3:14,16; see 4:1f; Mt.20:20f; Rom.2:8)
2. source: Satan (3:15b; 2:19; see Eph.2:1f; Mt.10:16(Gen.3:1f); see Lk.16:8; 1Cor.1:19f)
3. outcome: war (3:16; 4:1f; see 2Cor.12:20; Gal.5:20)

C. TRUE CLAIMS (3:13,17,18)

1. motive: humility (3:13b; 4:10; 1:21; see Eph.4:2; Col.3:12)
2. source: God (3:15,17; see II below)
3. outcome: peace (3:18; see 1Cor.14:33,40; Gal.5:22; Eph.4:2,3)

D. PRIMARY PROOF OF TRUE WISDOM: PURITY (3:17 /Phil.1:7; 2:3,1f; see Mt.22:37f /2Tm.2:21-26)

E. SECONDARY PROOFS OF TRUE WISDOM (3:17)

1. peaceable: unprovoked (see 1Cor.13:5; Col.3:13)
2. gentle: unprovoking (see 1Tm.3:3; Tt.3:2; 1Pt.2:18)
3. reasonable: persuadable by good (see Acts 17:11 vs. Lk.16:31)
4. full of mercy and good fruits: doing good (see 3:13; 2:14f; 1:26,27; Tt2:14; 2Cor9:6 /Mt6:2f; Acts9:36; 10:2f)
5. unwavering: persevering (see 1:6; Rom.4:20; Lk.9:6)
6. without hypocrisy: godly ambition (see 14; Rom.2:17f; 12:9; 2Cor.11:12f(Jms.3:15); 1Cor.5:9; Mt.22:37)

II. DOCTRINE: WISDOM FROM ABOVE (3:15,17)

A. WISDOM IS A GIFT FROM GOD (1Kngs.3:9f; Prov.2:6; Dan.2:21f; Mk.6:2; 2Pt.3:15)

B. WISDOM IS A GIFT IN CHRIST (1Cor.1:24,30(Jn.6:32f); Col.2:3 /Mt.11:29; 21:5; 2Cor.10:1 /see I,E above!)

C. WISDOM IS A GIFT BY THE SPIRIT (Ex.31:3; Is.11:2; Acts 6:3,10; 1Cor.12:8; see 2Tm.3:14f)

III. PRACTICE: THE WORKS OF WISDOM (3:13; see 2:14f; 1:26f)

A. EXAMINE YOUR CLAIMS OF WISDOM! (3:15; 2:18; see I; D,E; see Col.3:5-13; 1Cor.11:24,25)

B. ASK FOR TRUE WISDOM! (Jms.1:5f; 3:13f /1Kngs.3:9f; Lk.11:13; Eph.1:17 /2Tm.3:14-17; *Ps, Prov, etc.*)

C. BE WISE PEACEMAKERS (Jms.3:13-18; see Mt.5:9; 2Cor.5:20,21)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP

Suggestions: Don't feel obliged to use every question or every part of every question. Go through and discuss those that are of greatest interest to you. Then consider going back and discussing those that may also be useful, including those that may have seemed a bit difficult. In all questions, keep the outline before to identify entries relevant to the question and to look up appropriate verses listed.

1. *What most surprised, puzzled or impressed you from this sermon?
2. What was most helpful? Why? How will you apply it in your daily life?
3. What kind of person is considered wise in our day?
4. How is biblical wisdom similar to and different from this?
5. How can you tell when someone has false, demonic wisdom? (see I,B). Do you see any of these things in your own actions and manner of life? What must you do to repent?
6. How can you tell when someone has true, godly wisdom? (see I,C). Do you see any of these things in your own actions and manner of life? What must you do to persevere and grow?
7. Discuss the primary proof of true wisdom and how it applies to your life and the life of our congregation (see I,D). What must you/we do to persevere and grow in this?
8. Discuss each of the secondary proofs of true wisdom and how each applies to your life and the life of our congregation (see I,E). What must you/we do to persevere and grow in each of these?
9. How do these matters apply to our development of small group fellowships
10. How do these things apply to our work to develop our facilities?
11. How can we *accomplish* the wisdom we need? (see II,B) How can we *acquire* the wisdom we need? (see II,A,C).
12. What is required to be a peacemaker?