



September 12, 2021

“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.”

I. How does Wisdom Work? (James 3:13)

- A. Wisdom points the way! The RIGHT application of knowledge
- B. All other ways are “fleshly/foolishness” (Gal. 5; Prov. 14)
- C. Wisdom is not just knowing, it is going and showing!

Lesson #1 – Wisdom is Work!

- D. Who? Three measure of wise people:
 - 1. Good lives = wise lives = character
 - 2. Good deeds = wise deeds = acts of service
 - 3. Gentle (*prautes*) heart = wise heart = from the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22)

Lesson #2 – Wisdom is the Holy Spirit’s work through people!

- E. You MUST judge the fruit of a person’s wisdom! Beware of the “wisdom wars”

II. How does Foolishness Work?(James 3:14)

- A. Everything that is NOT from God (above) is “foolishness” (Jam. 3:15a)
- B. Foolishness comes from WRONG motives!
 - 1. Bitter envy = jealousy that desires to dominate others – always having to win
 - 2. Selfish ambition = self-promoting for money, fame, or power

Lesson #3- The Foolish have a personal agenda!

- C. This personal agenda leads the foolish to two common failings:
 - 1. Boasting = Needing all the attention and all the glory – selfish talk
 - 2. Bending or abusing the truth – pseudo – fake image based on lies.

Lesson #4 – The Foolish focus on themselves not God!

III. What are the Fruits of Foolishness? (James 3:15 – 17a)

- A. What does it matter? Everyone’s wisdom is valid!
- B. No, not all wisdom is true wisdom from God! (15a)
- C. The sources of foolishness:
 - 1. Earthly – Based on knowledge found in the physical world only (world)
 - 2. Unspiritual – Focused on physical life and death (flesh)
 - 3. Demonic – Derived from evil spirits (devil)

Lesson #5 – The foolish will lead you away from God

- D. The final result of foolishness:
 - 1. Confusion = chaos/instability/confusion (divides)
 - 2. Every evil practice = systems of behavior + systems of belief + systems of society

Lesson #6 – Foolishness develops behaviors/attitudes that destroy

- E. “but the wisdom that comes from heaven is...” (James 3:17a)