

James 3:13-18

Who is Wise?

The truly wise ...

I. The Character of Fools

A. Is Depraved

1. Earthly, Unspiritual, Demonic
2. From a Rotten Core

B. Produces Corruption

II. The Conduct of the Wise

A. Is Based On Understanding

1. From Above
2. Shapes Character

B. Is Consistently Christ-like

1. Pure
2. Peaceable
3. Gentle
4. Reasonable
5. Merciful
6. Impartial
7. Genuine

... bear fruit.

Children, Listen ...

1. Where do we learn how to live life wisely?
2. Wisdom is: A. Thinking right thoughts B. Doing the right thing C. Both
3. Are people who think everything in life is about them wise?
4. Jesus was the wisest person ever to walk the earth: from what you know about him would you say he was proud or humble?
5. Is there someone in your life you look up to as very wise?

How Fools Become Wise

Because we are born in sin we are by nature foolish people. We might grow to be smart, shrewd and clever and we may even attain a degree of worldly wisdom, but in the final assessment it is all folly if it is without God. James uses very strong terms to describe the thought processes and character traits of those bereft of heavenly wisdom – “earthly, unspiritual and demonic” are not exactly ego boosting terms! Maybe that is just the point ... sin corrupted egos need to be busted not boosted. Self must be removed from center, worldly mindedness must be eschewed and all dark-spirituality must be cast out in order to make way for the glorious wisdom that comes from above, from the Lord. True wisdom is informed by the Word of God and transforms lives accordingly. Fear of the Lord, knowledge of self and understanding human nature are all vital components of God honoring wisdom. Knowing Christ as Savior is the catalyst to it all: We know God through Him, we see perfect wisdom manifest in Him, and in Him we can walk wisely according to the precepts of God’s Word and the help of the Holy Spirit.