

Walking in Wisdom Through Conflict

James 3:13-4:12

I. Introduction

II. Wisdom from Above vs. Wisdom from Below – You Must Choose (James 3:13-18).

A. Who is wise?

B. What can get in the way of wisdom?

1.

2.

C. What are the two kinds of wisdom?

1.

2.

D. Wisdom from above described (all quotes in this section taken from *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary – James* pgs. 177-180).

- Pure – “free of contamination or defilement.”
- Peaceable – peace is more important than getting your way.
- Gentle – “it carries with it the idea of forbearing, courteous, considerate.”
- Open to reason – “Willing to yield without rancor or disputing. It is teachable, compliant, and not stubborn.”
- Full of mercy – mercy is when God withholds the punishment we deserve. Do we withhold the treatment our spouse deserves?
- Good fruits – “refers to every sort of good work or deed.”
- Impartial – “treating everyone equal without favoritism.”
- Sincere – has to do with avoiding hypocrisy. “So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”

III. What Causes Fight and Quarrels Among You (James 4:1-12)?

A. Our desires or passions (v. 1).

B. Murder and prayerlessness (v. 2).

C. Selfish prayers (v. 3).

D. Spiritual Adultery (v. 4).

E. God's response to our spiritual adultery (v. 5-6).

F. Our response to God's grace should be (v. 7-12):

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

IV. Conclusion – to tie this talk all together and give you a few actions steps, I would encourage you to consider:

1. Grow in humility by becoming forgetful of self.
 - a. Focus on God - meditate on who God is and what He has done on your behalf (Psalm 145:5).
 - b. Focus on your spouse - how you can love and serve another and not on how they are not loving and serving you (Galatians 5:13-14).
2. Repent of sin regularly and quickly -search your own heart but allow others to speak into your life as well. This will keep you from bitter jealousy and selfish ambition.
3. Be full of mercy (James 3:17; Psalm 103:8-10). *Treat your spouse better than he/she deserves.*
4. Pray unselfishly for your spouse/fiancé and your relationship.
5. Don't murder in your heart by attacking in anger or give the silent treatment.
6. Have a vibrant abiding relationship with Christ so you don't commit spiritual adultery.
7. Remember/meditate on God's grace.
8. Don't judge each other (James 4:11-12) but believe the best in each other (1 Cor. 13:7). The best way not to judge is ask more questions.
9. Get help - If you are still struggling, bring in trusted friends, a pastor, or counselor to help you see yourself more accurately and learn how to resolve conflict (Galatians 6:2).

Discussion Questions

1. What was most helpful or practically encouraging about what was shared?
2. What did you find most convicting in this message? What is the area you heard discussed that needs immediate growth or change in your life or relationship?
3. Is there a couple in your life who has faithfully, but not perfectly, lived out what was discussed tonight about wisdom and resolving conflict? Take a moment to share about this couple and how they have been a blessing in your life or what you appreciate most about this couple.