

Life Group Homework

What Real Wisdom Looks Like

James 3:13-18

Let's Get Started

It's fascinating that American workers who were once concerned about being replaced by someone with more knowledge, expertise, and experience are now more concerned about being replaced by an algorithm. Welcome to the "smart machine age."

Being smart these days means you have a smart video doorbell, a smart surveillance system to protect your house, a smart thermometer to take your temperature, a smart thermostat with voice control to keep you warm in the winter and cool in the summer, and a smart vacuum cleaner that you talk to and control with an app on your phone. Oh, and if you're really smart, you should consider checking out a new driverless smart car. Right?

What do you think? Do you like living in the "smart machine" age? Is there a down-side to smart technology?

Let's Go Deeper

Solomon wrote, "*Acquire wisdom; and with all your acquiring, get understanding*" (**Proverbs 4:7**). For the Jewish people of Solomon's day, the biggest fool was he who knew the truth and failed to apply it. Wisdom was defined as the skill of living righteously.

In **James 3:13-18**, James wrote, "*Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct, let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*"

How do you define success?

Has your perspective of success changed over the years, and why?

In your own words, what is the wisdom in **Proverbs 14:12**?

Have you ever made a big decision or a purchase that seemed right to you, but in the end, you discovered how wrong it really was?

Worldly Wisdom

Read **1 Corinthians 1:19-20**. In what ways do you see that God has made foolish the wisdom of this world?

Read **1 Corinthians 3:18-19**. What do think Paul meant when he says, *“If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.”*

What are some examples of worldly wisdom today that is totally void of godly, spiritual wisdom?

What does **Revelation 20:12-13** show us will happen to worldly wisdom and the evil it has produced throughout time?

Godly Wisdom

In **Philippians 2:19-21**, we read, *“I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.”*

This is the profile of worldly wisdom. It seeks to serve and glorify the self. Look up the scriptures below. Each one is filled to the brim with godly, biblical, spiritually healthy wisdom. What is the common theme about godly wisdom that you see running through these passages?

1 Corinthians 10:24

Philippians 2:3-4

1 Corinthians 13:4-6

According to **James 3:17-18**, what does heavenly wisdom look like? List the seven attributes of heavenly wisdom from this passage below:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Let's Live It Out Together

St. Francis Assisi prayed this well-known prayer: *“Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.”*

As a group discussion, share specific, effective ways Christians should be putting the “wisdom from above” on display instead of resorting to the wisdom of the world.

Don't forget to ask for prayer requests and praise reports!