





# WALK THE WALK

A serious look at the the letter from James

**James 3:1-12**

*Words Matter*

**James 3:13-4:12**

*Wisdom, Warnings,  
and Worldliness*

**James 3:13-18**

*Wisdom*

## James 3:13-18 *Wisdom*

13 Who is wise and understanding among you?

By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.

14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth.

15 This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

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14 But if you have *jealousy and selfish ambition*  
in your hearts, do not boast and be proud,  
because this is not the *wisdom that comes from above*,  
but is earthly, unspiritual, and of the devil.  
Where *envy and selfish ambition* exist,  
there will also be *murder, strife, and evil deeds*.  
You cannot boast with confidence,  
because you are jealous and selfishly ambitious.  
Therefore, if you want to love life,  
do not sin, for sin kills the soul.  
Therefore, if you want to be wise,  
listen to the *gentle and lowly voice of wisdom*,  
which is at peace with the world,  
and is full of *goodness, mercy, and peace*,  
and is without *partiality or hypocrisy*.  
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Therefore, if you want to be wise,  
listen to the *gentle and lowly voice of wisdom*,  
which is at peace with the world,  
and is full of *goodness, mercy, and peace*,  
and is without *partiality or hypocrisy*.

15 This is not  
above, but

...the skill of God exercised with  
"gentle strength" which expresses *power*  
with *reserve and gentleness*.



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### **Greek: *zelos***

A fervent “red-hot” inclination for something good or bad....  
'jealousy' is the negative, 'zeal' is the positive.

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**Greek: *pikros***

harsh, virulent (full of malice).

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15 *"I deeply want what you have to the point where I entertain malice in my heart."*

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14 **But** if you have bitter jealousy and **selfish ambition** in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth.

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## Greek: *eritheia*

*rivalry, ambition...*

...acting for one's *own gain*,  
regardless of the discord (strife) it causes

mEEKNESS OF WISDOM.

14 But if you have bitter jealousy and **selfish ambition** in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth.

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## Greek: *eritheia*

*Aristotle-*

*“A self-seeking pursuit of political office by unfair means.”*

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## Greek: *eritheia*

*New Testament-*

*“A jealous or angry leader forms a group which emotionally or physically withdraws from the rest of the church.”*

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14 **But** if you have bitter jealousy and **selfish ambition** in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth.

15 This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

*“I do not want you to have what I want for myself, and I am willing to cause trouble and strife in order to attain it.”*

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14 **But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts,**

...do not cover up your jealousy and selfish ambition by denying it's reality or by suggesting you are justified in blaming others for your wrongs.

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**...inferior, devoid, inspired by the evil one.**

16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist,  
there will be disorder and every vile practice.

17 But the wisdom from above is first pure,  
then peaceable, gentle, open to reason,  
full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace  
by those who make peace.

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16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

17 But the wisdom from above is **first pure**, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and sincere.

...not *mixed* with guilt  
or anything condemnable.

18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then **peaceable**, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

...that which pertains to *peace*, i.e. God's gift of *wholeness* which results from knowing (discerning) and obeying the Lord's will.

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17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, **gentle**, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

*...true equity* that appropriately fulfills the *spirit* (not just the letter) of the law.

18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, **open to reason**, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

...easy to come to terms  
with

*because the person is already willing.*

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16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

...overflowing with compassion and action that brings unity to the body and honor to God.

18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, **impartial** and sincere.

... undivided, whole-hearted, honest...  
*'to tell the truth, the whole truth,  
and nothing but the truth'.*

18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

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...describing sincere behavior free from hidden agendas (selfish motives) – literally, "without *hypocrisy*" (unfeigned).

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**So.....therefore.....what now?**

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In order for the abundant righteousness of God to be prevalent among us,  
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Godly wisdom has never, and will never, be produced by anything other than the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Anything else is simply the jealousy and selfish ambition of man which seeks earthly, unspiritual, and evil intentions over and above the good of the body of Christ.

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**Skeptic:** We apologize for the foolish earthly wisdom with which and by which we the church have at times conducted ourselves and passed off as 'godly' when it was anything but.

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**Inquirer:** As you consider buying into what it means to be a follower of Christ, be aware of the temptation to try and live the Christian life out of the flesh rather than in the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

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**Already Convinced:** Take seriously the responsibility we have before God and for one another to seek and incorporate the wisdom of God in understanding:

life's origin,  
it's meaning,  
it's morality,  
and it's destiny.

# So.....therefore.....what now?

In a world where:

Philosophy... has become ...Existential

Art... has become ...Sensual

Education... has become ...Skeptical

Religion... has become ...Mystical

Culture... has become ...Trivial

Christianity... has become ...Minimal\*

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...we are called to maturity by seeking the wisdom that is from God  
and rejecting the wisdom that comes from the world,  
the world's system,  
and the author of a life separated from and in opposition to God Himself.