

## Gentle Wisdom - James 3

October 5, 2017

James 3:13 NASB

13 **WHO AMONG YOU IS WISE AND UNDERSTANDING? LET HIM SHOW BY HIS GOOD BEHAVIOR** (*anastrophē* - manner of life, conduct, behaviour) **HIS DEEDS IN THE GENTLENESS OF WISDOM.**

### GENTLENESS OF WISDOM

- *The wise and understanding is one who knows how to apply Biblical wisdom with gentleness.*
- *One who is not sharp, harsh, irritable, angry, condescending, intimidating, domineering or arrogant.*
- *One who has his/her fleshly impulses crucified and under control. He does not have to prove that he is always right, superior or someone to fear.*
- *One who responds to people and to the situation with the fruit of the Spirit in love, gentleness, kindness, patience and forgiveness.*
- *Gentleness of wisdom creates a response of:*
  - *Gratitude*
  - *Receptivity*
  - *Eagerness*
- *Wisdom administered in harshness creates a response of:*
  - *Intimidation*
  - *Coercion*
  - *Aloofness*

Psalm 18:35 ESV

35 You have given me the shield of your salvation, and your right hand supported me, and your gentleness (*`anavah* - gentleness, condescension, humility, meekness) made me great.

Romans 2:4-5 ESV

4 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

5 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

John 8:3-11 ESV

3 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst

4 they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery.

5 Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?"

6 This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground.

7 And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her."

8 And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground.

9 But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him.

10 Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."

John 4:9-19 ESV

9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

11 The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"

12 Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock."

13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,

14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

16 Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here."

17 The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband';

18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."

19 The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet."

Luke 22:31-34 ESV

31 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat,

32 but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

33 Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death."

34 Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me."

James 3:14-16 NASB

14 **But if you have BITTER JEALOUSY** (*zēlos* - envy, jealousy, indignation) and **SELFISH AMBITION** (*eritheia* - strife, contention, electioneering) in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth.

15 **This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic.**

16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, **THERE IS DISORDER** (*akatastasia* - confusion, disturbance, tumult, commotion, instability) **AND EVERY EVIL THING** (ESV - "every vile practice").

- **Our greatest enemy is not the enemy without but the enemy within.**

Matthew 12:24-25 NASB

24 But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons."

25 And knowing their thoughts Jesus said to them, "Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself will not stand.

Galatians 5:15 ESV

15 But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

- **The earthly and demonic wisdom operates by politicking, electioneering, sow seeds of discord, creating an underlying and troubling unrest and division.**

Philippians 1:12-18 ESV

12 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, 13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.

14 And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

15 Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will.

16 The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.

17 The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment.

18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice,

1 Corinthians 1:10-18 ESV

10 I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

11 For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers.

12 What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ."

13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,

15 so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name.

16 (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)

17 For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

3 John 1:9-10 ESV

9 I have written something to the church, but Diotrephes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge our authority.

10 So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, talking wicked nonsense against us. And not content with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers, and also stops those who want to and puts them out of the church.

John 6:66-69 ESV

66 After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.

67 So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?"

68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life,

69 and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

- **There is nothing wrong with disagreement until it turns into strife when one or both parties:**
  - **insist on having things their own way.**
  - **refuse to submit to the decision of the leadership.**

Hebrews 13:17 ESV

17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

1 Peter 5:2-3 ESV

2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly;

3 Not domineering over (katakyrieuo - to bring under one's power, hold in subjection, control, lord over) those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

- **Unless the Word of God is being transgressed, maintaining the unity of the Spirit, the peace in relationship, is always more important than personal preference.**

Ephesians 4:1-4 ESV

1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,

3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4 There is one body and one Spirit--just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call.

James 3:17-18 NASB

17 **BUT THE WISDOM FROM ABOVE IS FIRST PURE** (hagnos - pure from carnality), **THEN PEACEABLE** (eirenikos - loving peace, bringing peace), **GENTLE** (epiekes - mild, fair, patient, moderate), **REASONABLE** (eupeithes - easy to be intreated), **FULL OF MERCY** (eleos - goodness and goodwill to the afflicted and miserable) **AND GOOD FRUITS, UNWAVERING** (adiakritos - without dubiousness, ambiguity or uncertainty), **WITHOUT HYPOCRISY.**

18 **AND THE SEED WHOSE FRUIT IS RIGHTEOUSNESS IS SOWN IN PEACE BY THOSE WHO MAKE PEACE.**