



# Just Grow Up!

James - A Manual for Maturity

## Wise and Understanding

July 8 & 9, 2023

### James 3:13-18 (NLT)

If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

### Two Facts About God's Wisdom:

- **Wisdom is a lifestyle.**

#### James 3:13 (NLT)

If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom.

- **Lack of wisdom brings chaos into my life.**

### James 3:14-16 (NLT)

But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.

## I'm Wise and Understanding When I:

**1**

### **Refuse to compromise my integrity.**

Verse 17a | *But the wisdom from above is first of all pure.*

### Proverbs 10:9 (TPT)

The one who walks in integrity will experience a fearless confidence in life, but the one who is devious will eventually be exposed.

## 2

### **Resist the desire to antagonize others toward anger.**

Verse 17b | *It is also peace loving...*

#### **Proverbs 20:3** (TPT)

A person of honor will put an argument to rest. Only the stupid want to pick a fight.

#### **Proverbs 14:29** (TPT)

When your heart overflows with understanding you'll be very slow to get angry. But if you have a quick temper, your impatience will be quickly seen by all.

#### **Three Attitudes that Cause Arguments:**

- **Comparing**
- **Condemning**
- **Contradicting**

## 3

### **Rebuff the temptation to minimize others feelings.**

Verse 17b | *The wisdom from above is... gentle at all times...*

#### **Proverbs 15:4** (TPT)

When you speak healing words, you offer others fruit from the tree of life. But unhealthy, negative words do nothing but crush their hopes.

- **Feelers**
  - Emotional people who are very empathetic
- **Thinkers**
  - Logical people who are often not very emotional.
- **Doers**
  - Task-driven people who would rather work than talk.
- **Intuitives**
  - Detail people who analyze their spreadsheets before they do anything.

## 4

### **Reflect humility by not criticizing other's decisions and suggestions.**

Verse 17b | *The wisdom from above is... willing to yield to others...*

The word for "yield to others" in the Greek is *eupelthes* which means "Allow discussion" or "Open to reason from others".

#### **Proverbs 12:15** (TPT)

A fool is in love with his own opinion, but wisdom means being teachable.

## 5

### **Reinforce positivity in people rather than emphasize their mistakes.**

Verse 17b | *The wisdom from above is... full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds...*

#### **Proverbs 17:9 (TPT)**

Love overlooks the mistakes of others, but dwelling on the failures of others devastates friendships.

#### **Galatians 6:1-3 (TPT)**

My beloved friends, if you see a believer who is overtaken with a fault, the one who is in the Spirit should seek to restore him in the Spirit of gentleness. But keep watch over your own heart so that you won't be tempted to exalt yourself over him. Love empowers us to fulfill the law of the Anointed One as we carry each other's troubles. If you think you are somebody too important to stoop down to help another (when really you are not), you are living in deception.

#### **The Five Steps from Galatians 6:**

- **Don't assume you know anything about anyone.**
- **Seek full and total restoration for those who have fallen in sin.**
- **Empathize with their hurts and never stand in judgment.**
- **Humble yourself.**
- **Do careful self-examination of your own life before helping someone else.**

## 6

### **Remember, truly wise Christians are peacemakers who love everyone.**

Verses 17-18 | *The wisdom from above... shows no favoritism and is always sincere. And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.*

**The Greek word for “love everyone” and “peacemaker” are *adiakristos* and *anyokritos*.**

#### **Proverbs 26:23-26 (TPT)**

Smooth talk can hide a corrupt heart just like a pretty glaze covers a cheap clay pot. Kind words can be a cover to conceal hatred of others, for hypocrisy loves to hide behind flattery. So don't be drawn in by the hypocrite, for his gracious speech is a charade, nothing but a masquerade covering his hatred and evil on parade. Don't worry—he can't keep the mask on for long. One day his hypocrisy will be exposed before all the world.

#### **Colossians 2:3 (TPT)**

For our spiritual wealth is in him, like hidden treasure waiting to be discovered—heaven's wisdom and endless riches of revelation knowledge.

## Memory Verse

### **James 3:13** (NLT)

If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom.



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