

Notes

Questions for Further Application:

1. According to verse 13, how can we identify true wisdom? How does this differ from worldly wisdom?
2. James mentions bitter envy and selfish ambition. How can these attitudes impact relationships within families? Between friends? In a community? In the workplace?
3. What happens in those same relationships from question #2 when people take up the attitude and wisdom that's described in verse 17?

James 3:13-18

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. ¹⁵ Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.