

James 3:17-18

Teaching Guide

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Have you ever been given bad advice? Maybe it was driving directions or a movie to go see. While this is no big deal when it comes to directions or a movie, it can be crippling when it comes to teaching concerning who God is, and how we relate to Him. When bad advice or personal insight masquerades as biblical teaching it can actually obscure our understanding of God. This will, in turn, change the way we relate to Him. This leads to a fabrication of God, which is a fancy way of saying "idolatry." When this happens, we all lose. This is precisely why we need to know what true wisdom looks like and what wisdom produces.

I. What _____ like – v.17

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

Flow of Thought:

- I. Testing our trust in God:**
 - A. In Trials – v.2-12**
 - B. In Temptation – v.13-17**
 - C. In Life – v.18-21**
- II. Testing our Focus – 2:1-4:17**
 - A. In how we relate within the community of faith:**
 - 1. Favoritism? – 2:1-7**
 - 2. Love! – 2:8-13**
 - 3. Faith? Works! – 2:14-26**
 - 4. Speech – 3:1-18**

II. What _____ – v.18

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

Target Practice

1. Give an example of what someone thinks about God and how that would affect how they live.
2. Can you think of an example of some wrong teaching you were given and how it impacted how you lived?
3. Why does this passage refer primarily to teachers within the church?
4. What are some ways in which the qualities in v. 17 will shape who you should submit to as a teacher of God's Word?
5. How does v.18 relate to the speech of teachers? In what way does it relate to the speech of all followers of Jesus Christ?