

Lesson 18 –Wise behavior

James 3:17 - 18 (NASB) ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. ¹⁸And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

James 3:17 - 18 (NLT) ¹⁷But 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 good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. ¹⁸And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

1. Pure

Personal transparency or holiness. Sincere —without hypocrisy

2. Peace Loving

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God” (Matt. 5:9).

- The truly wise don't perpetrate conflict by their selfishness, but produce peace by their humility

Philippians 2:1 - 4 (NASB)

¹Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion,

²make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

³Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;

⁴do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

3. Gentle

- Moderate, forbearing, courteous, and considerate. A **gentle** person is humbly patient, submits to dishonor and abuse, mistreatment, and persecution, knowing that “blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth,” and “blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you” (Matt. 5:5, 10–12).

4. Reasonable

- Willing to yield without rancor or disputing. It is teachable, compliant, and not stubborn. It was used of a man who willingly submitted to military discipline, accepting and complying with whatever was demanded of him and of a person who faithfully observes legal and moral standards. This quality reflects the first Beatitude, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 5:3).

5. Full of mercy

He has concern and compassion for anyone he encounters who is suffering or who needs any kind of support or assistance. He has special concern for fellow believers, for his brothers and sisters in Christ

6. Full of good works

Which refers to every sort of **good** work or deed. He demonstrates his genuine faith by his authentic good works (James 2:14–20). A believer is known for doing **good** and for exemplifying the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22–23). In all of this, he reflects his “hunger and thirst for righteousness” (Matt. 5:6).

7. Unwavering

GK. Adiakritos (unwavering) is used only here in the New Testament and literally means not to be parted or divided, hence without uncertainty, indecision, inconsistency, vacillation, or doubtfulness. The word was therefore sometimes used to indicate impartiality, treating everyone equally without favoritism, an important spiritual quality that James has already emphasized (2:1–9).

¹⁸And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

This section gives three suggestions for controlling the tongue:

1. Seek God’s wisdom.
2. Admit jealousy and arrogance without trying to cover them up.
3. Create a climate of peace wherever God leads you.

- **Isaiah 32:17 (NASB)**

¹⁷ And the work of righteousness will be peace,
And the service of righteousness, quietness and confidence forever.

As James continually emphasizes, the person who professes to be a Christian must prove it by his works, his daily living.

- **Acts 26:20 (NLT)**

²⁰I preached first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that all must repent of their sins and turn to God—and prove they have changed by the good things they do.

If he is a true believer, he will possess his Lord’s own wisdom, and that wisdom will manifest itself in righteous, selfless, and peaceful living.

- He later admonished them, “Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise” (5:15).

MONDAY MORNING MOMENT: Action Step

What we are is what we live, what we live is what we sow and what we sow determines what we reap!

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