

James

Practical Wisdom for
Kingdom Service

Chapter 3: Pipe Down (and listen up)

James 3:13

Who is wise and
understanding among you?
He should show his works
by good conduct with
wisdom's gentleness.

Wise and understanding

Not academic, but godly conduct
(showing love and respect for
God) and gentleness (showing a
love for mankind).

Chapter 3: Pipe Down (and listen up)

James 3:14-16

But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your heart, don't boast and lie in defiance of the truth.

Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every kind of evil.

Bitter

Same word as 3:11 (bitter water)

Selfish ambition

Phil. 1:15-17 (contrasted with Phil. 2:3ff)

Earthly, sensual, demonic

Focus is only on temporal things that give temporary pleasure.

Disorder, every kind of evil

1 Cor. 14:33 – “God is not a God of disorder...,” so this can’t be our behavior.

Chapter 3: Pipe Down (and listen up)

James 3:17-18

But the **wisdom from above** is first pure, then peace-loving, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, without favoritism and hypocrisy.

And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Wisdom from above

Jas. 1:5

Pure, because of the Source

Sown in peace

We don't produce fruit through conflict, but by seeking and promoting peace.

Breakdown:

Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3	Chapter 4	Chapter 5
PERSEVERE	PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACH	PIPE DOWN (and listen up)	PRIORITIZE: GOD MORE, SELF LESS	PIETY, PATIENCE & PRAYER
Endurance produces perspective and resolve, which should motivate each Christian to be a “doer of the word.”	Being a doer of the word involves doing so impartially with pure motives to accomplish God’s will. Faith <u>must</u> motivate this type of action.	What we say and how we say it are important in our work for the Lord. Words and deeds show the condition of the heart.	Selfish motives drive us apart from God. The answer to selfishness is humble submission – to God and to others.	Trusting in temporal things is futile, so wait for the Lord with patience, praying for one another and forgiving one another in faith.

Chapter 4:

Prioritize (God more, self less)

James 4:1-3

What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your evil desires.

Pleasures that wage war within

Hedone, root of hedonism, the exclusive pursuit of pleasure

The internal struggle grows into an external struggle with those around us.

Lust, kill, covet, fight, war

An ever-escalating, never-ending series of events that leave destruction in their wake.

Damage can be physical or spiritual.

Chapter 4: Prioritize (God more, self less)

James 4:4-5

Adulteresses! Don't you know that friendship with the world is hostility with God? So **whoever wants to be the world's friend becomes God's enemy.**

Or do you think it's without reason the scripture says that **the Spirit who lives in us yearns jealously?**

Adultery

This is the language of idolatry in the OT and NT.

To reject God's grace is to place oneself against Him.

Jealousy

Not always negative.

This is the zeal that a spouse has exclusively for their partner by nature of a covenant relationship between you for the good of both of you.

Chapter 4: Prioritize (God more, self less)

James 4:6

But He gives greater grace.

Therefore He says: ‘**God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.**

Greater grace

God doesn’t simply express zeal,
He also acts on it, taking steps for
our benefit.

His grace will always exceed our
sin...

Grace to the humble

...but it falls on us to put self
aside and rely on Him for what
we truly need.