

Wisdom to Reject the World (James 3:13-4:10).

1. Wisdom is also demonstrated through actions of kindness and self-denial anything else produces demonic results. (3:13-18)
  - a. The proof of the pudding is in the eating wisdom in spirituality is always demonstrated, manifested, shown outwardly.
  - b. But if we hold to a selfish outlook, a self-centered way of being, we put ourselves in opposition to the will of God and prove ourselves to be foolish.
  - c. Wisdom from the world is selfish, wicked, and disorderly. From above, wisdom is pure, peaceable, full of mercy and spiritual fruit, without partiality and hypocrisy. Righteousness, real righteousness comes through peace.
2. But trying to pursue worldly things, being like the world, makes us God's enemies, and it will be evident in our behavior. (4:1-4)
  - a. Anytime you are surrounded by conflict, constant conflict, where there is always something going on, you might be or someone around you might be pursuing friendship with the world.
  - b. When we pursue a worldly mindset, we make ourselves adulterers in that we cheat on God with the idols of the world. The prophets warned Israel about its flirtation with other gods. We have to be careful about putting other ideas, other ways of thinking, above what the Scripture tells us about God. There will be no peace from God in such a climate.
3. We strive to always yield to God, otherwise we will be overwhelmed by the powers of hell. (4:5-10)
  - a. Humility begins with God but shows itself with how we treat other people. When our focus is on God and his Word, then we will be able to handle conflicts around us and deal with the issues in a godly manner.
  - b. Submission to God is the only way Satan can be overcome. It is the only way God will lift us up over our enemies.