

Sermon Notes

The Character of True Wisdom
James 3:12-18

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How can I distinguish wisdom from foolishness?

True wisdom is displayed in a life of humble service toward others.

Selfish ambition and a comparative spirit are glaring indicators of foolishness.

The source of an idea is a clue to its wisdom. Beware ideas that originate from the world, the self, or the devil.

True wisdom reflects the character of God.

Seeks to give as much as possible, not take as much as possible

Seeks to love others

Seeks to be loyal and honest

Questions for Reflection/Discussion:

As always feel free to tweak, skip, or add questions to focus on areas you think most relevant to your group.

1. If you are in a team trivia competition, which categories are your specialties?
2. What characteristics do you normally look for in a wise person?
3. How would you explain what a healthy humility looks like?
4. What have you found helpful in cultivating a spirit of humility?
5. Who has modeled humble service well for you in life?
6. How can we identify when our ambition has become selfish ambition?
7. In what areas of life are you most likely to drift into a comparative posture?
8. What makes comparison such a dangerous thing for spiritual health?
9. How do you evaluate a new idea to determine if it is a wise one or not?
10. Read through the list of wise virtues, which one of these have you seen God grow in you? Which one would you like to see God grow in you in the weeks ahead?