



Speaker: Matt Magee

Series: Prince of Peace

Sermon Title: Living as Peacemakers

Scripture: [James 1:5-8](#); [James 3:13-18](#)

(Pro Tip: click on the passages linked above to be taken to a page with all the passages in one location.)

Main Idea: Express God's Wisdom by Living as Peacemakers Among Believers

OUTLINE

1. Wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord (Prov. 1:7) which God generously gives to everyone who asks with right motives (James 1:5-8).
2. Express God's wisdom through meekness (James 3:13-16).
3. Genuine wisdom from God's Spirit produces peacemaking (James 3:17-18).

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. What are you looking forward to this Christmas? What might you be nervous about?
2. Take a few minutes to skim Proverbs chapters 1 and 2. Working as a group, what stands out to you about wisdom?
3. Pastor Matt playfully described James immediate audience as those who might all race to raise their hands when James asked, "Who is wise and understanding among you?" If you were in James' immediate audience, would you have raised your hand (Pastor Matt admits he would likely fall in that trap).
4. Read James 1:5-8 together. How does James direct those who are struggling with how to handle their challenges in life? (Read the context before v. 5.)
5. What are the conditions James gives in verses 5-8 for receiving wisdom from God?

6. The humble person sees the kindness of God, is poor in spirit because they mourn over their own sin. To those people, God grants wisdom. (It may be worth re-reading Matthew 5:3-4.)
7. What does James 3:14 tell us two expressions of this pride are? And what is the effect (also in 14)?
8. Notice James 3:17 lists 8 attributes of "wisdom from above." What are they?
9. What does James highlight about the first attribute ("first pure")? What does that say about the message in 13-18?
10. These attributes express themselves in the lives of those who seek to make peace with brothers and sisters in Christ.
11. Pastor Matt closed with this challenge. Is there someone you need to make peace with today?
 1. Begin with God
 2. Set your mind on purely and truthfully seeking to glorify God, and ask Him for wisdom.
 3. Take 2 action steps:
 1. Pray, asking God to ready your heart and theirs for a conversation that is peacable, gentle, where you're both open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, and where you both seek to be impartial and sincere.
 2. Then, sow a harvest of righteousness by initiating a conversation where you seek to make peace with a brother or sister in Christ.