

**God's Wisdom for Healthy Relationships (1 of 3)**  
**"How to Become Wise In Relationships"**  
**Cornerstone Church**  
**Pastor Ed Turley**  
**May 14, 2023**

**Big Idea:** If we want healthier relationships, we must apply God's wisdom/truth.

Come close to God, and God will come close to you.

**James 4:8a (NLT2) Remember Verse**

**Man's Wisdom**

- Live a double life
- Antagonize others
- Minimize people's feelings
- Become Critical
- Emphasize others mistakes
- Have a hidden agenda

**God's Wisdom**

- Pure- spiritually & morally
- Peace-loving
- Considerate
- Willing to Yield
- Show mercy
- Good deeds
- Impartial and sincere

**If you are wise** and understand God's ways, prove it by living an **honorable life**, doing **good works** with the humility that comes from wisdom. <sup>14</sup> But if you are *bitterly jealous* and there is *selfish ambition* in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. <sup>15</sup> For *jealousy* and *selfishness* are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. <sup>16</sup> For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find **disorder** and **evil of every kind**. <sup>17</sup> But 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**. <sup>18</sup> And those who are **peacemakers** will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

**James 3:13-18 (NLT2)**

**God's Wisdom For My Relationships:**

**1. Be Pure**

But the wisdom from above is first of all **pure**. **James 3:17a (NLT2)**

But don't just **listen** to God's word. You must **do** what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. <sup>25</sup> But if you look carefully into the perfect law that **sets you free**, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

**James 1:22-25 (NLT2)**

## **2. Be Considerate**

It is also **peace loving**, **gentle** at all times, and **willing to yield** to others.

**James 3:17b (NLT2)**

It is to a man's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel.

**Proverbs 20:3 (NIV)**

Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate?

<sup>2</sup> Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. <sup>3</sup> Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.

<sup>4</sup> Don't look out only for your own interests, but **take an interest in others**, too.

<sup>5</sup> You must have the **same attitude that Christ Jesus** had.

**Philippians 2:1-5 (NLT2)**

Intelligent people are always ready to learn. Their ears are open for knowledge.

**Proverbs 18:15 (NLT)**

## **3. Be Merciful**

It is **full of mercy** and **good deeds**. It **shows no favoritism** and is **always sincere**.

<sup>18</sup> And those who are **peacemakers** will **plant seeds of peace** and reap a harvest of righteousness. **James 3:17c-18 (NLT2)**

<sup>12</sup> So whatever you say or whatever you do, remember that you will be judged by the law that sets you free. <sup>13</sup> There will be no mercy for those who have not shown mercy to others. But if you have been merciful, God will be merciful when he judges you.

**James 2:12-13 (NLT2)**

<sup>12</sup> Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.

**Colossians 3:12-14 (NLT2)**

**How wise am I in my relationships?**

**My next right step, I will:**

Evaluate my character and apply God's Word

Be more considerate with my family

Show mercy in my relationships

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**Family Corner:** [Choose one day this week to ask questions to go deeper in faith as a family. Try this over dinner. Keep it to 12 minutes or less.]

**Open in Prayer.**

**Icebreaker:**

Growing up, how have we been legalistic or lukewarm in our faith?

How has that affected our family?

What is one thing that we can do to be more Christ-centered as a family?

The #1 predictor of happiness in your life is: the relationships you have.

**Wisdom is demonstrated in how we relate to others.**

**Read James 3:13-18**

How does man's wisdom compare to God's wisdom?

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Which area do you struggle with the most?

**God's Wisdom For My Relationships:**

**1. Be Pure**

**Read James 3:17**

What does it mean to be pure?

What can help you to be pure in faith and relationships?

## **Read James 1:22-25**

How is God's word a mirror?

How can you do better in application?

## **2. Be Considerate: Man's Wisdom**

### **Read James 3:17**

What are some ways we can be more peace-loving, gentle and willing to yield?

### **Read Proverbs 20:3**

Would your family say that you are quick or slow to quarrel?

How can you improve?

### **Read Philippians 2:1-5**

How has Jesus shown you compassion?

Would your family say you are difficult to get along or are you more agreeable?

With whom do you need to be more curious and considerate of?

What was the attitude of Jesus?

### **Read Proverbs 18:15**

Are you more open to learn something new or closed? Why?

## **3. Be Merciful**

### **Read James 3:17-18**

How can you be "full" of mercy?

What kind of seeds in your relationships have you been planting?

### **Read James 2:12-13**

How has God set you free?

Why should you show mercy?

### **Read Colossians 3:12-14**

Which attribute do you struggle with the most; tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience and forgiveness?

**Close in Prayer:** Start praying. Be bold and pray specifically.