

Practical Christianity

Your Conversation

James 3.13-18

[James has told us that mature Christians:]

- [**Continue In Spiritual Growth**- Grow in tribulation and trials.]
- [**Care For Their Fellow Man** - Love their Brethren.]
- [**Walk With Purpose In Life**- Demonstrate their faith by their works. They walk their talk.]
- [**Control Their Speech And Tongue** - Bridle their divisive, devilish, destructive tongues. Their talk is right.]

[In this Text, we consider **Your Conversation** - What's in your heart?]

[Read Text]

The title of this message is **Your Conversation**. When we talk about a conversation we first think about the things we say. However, in the Word of God a conversation is not talk it is how you live your life. It might be better to say in our day that we are considering your **Lifestyle or how you live your life**. It is important that you know that when you see the word conversation in your King James Bible, the Word of God, we are talking about your lifestyle.

How we live our life is wholly dependent on who we really are on the inside. When you really understand who you are in your mind and your heart you can develop or have **integrity**. **Integrity** is all about you knowing who you are and living in keeping with who you are. **In other words don't pretend to be someone you are not; this is hypocrisy**. Our text states,

*James 3:17 - But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, **and without hypocrisy**.*

We will talk more about hypocrisy later in this message.

A. **Two types of Wisdom**

Notice in our text that there are **Two Types of Wisdom**,

- **There is Godly Spiritual Wisdom – Spiritual Wisdom**

James 3:17 - But the wisdom that is from above . . .

This is the type of wisdom that results from seeking the wisdom, will, and way of God and comes primarily from welcoming the Word of God, this King James Bible, into your heart, mind, and life. This is to have a **biblical mindset** and **to know that God is always right**.

- **There is earthly (Devilish, Rebellious) Wisdom – Secular Wisdom**

*James 3:15 - This wisdom descendeth **not** from above, **but is earthly, sensual, devilish.***

Worldly wisdom **is earthly**. Worldly wisdom seeks the understanding and way of mankind apart from God. **It is sensual**. To be sensual is to be emotional or seductive following ones own corrupt heart. **Devilish** would be spiritual but spiritual in following the wrong spirits, who present themselves as ministers of righteousness.

These two Types of wisdom permeate the Word of God and are persistently present in our daily lives.

Our text calls us to develop Spiritual Wisdom from above rather than Secular Wisdom, which is earthly; and challenges us to live a lifestyle true to Godly Spiritual Wisdom.

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Your Conversation
James 3.13-18**

A. Two Types of Wisdom
- Godly Spiritual Wisdom
- Earthly Secular Wisdom

B. Our Spiritual Conversation – Our Spiritual Lifestyle

1. The Marks of a Godly Spiritual Conversation – Notice that this conversation based on Spiritual Godly Wisdom is,

- **Knowledgeable and Wise**

*James 3:17 - But the **wisdom that is from above** . . .*

This knowledge and wisdom is from above

*James 3:13 - Who is a **wise man** and **endued with knowledge** among you? . . .*

This knowledge and wisdom is endued, it is not natural, it is not from yourself. **This is wisdom given by God through the Holy Spirit in you** and it is the absolute wisdom of God. Where does God say we get your wisdom?

*Psalm 119:9 - Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto **according to thy word.***

*Psalm 119:11 - **Thy word** have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

Notice that you do not just conjure up ideas in your heart and mind and if they seem right to you then that is your truth. This is the mark of Secular Conversation not Spiritual Conversation.

- **Marked by Meekness**

*James 3:13 - Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? **let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.***

Meekness is very close to surrender in the Word of God. It means to place the reins, as in horses reins, in the hands of another. Therefore you take your will, strength, and ability and place it under the authority and control of another, who is God.

So to be meek in the context of our text is to live out a lifestyle, a conversation, that is informed by the knowledge and wisdom of the mind of God and to do all that you do under the authority, and surrender to, the Word of God.

- **It is Good**

*James 3:13 - Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? **let him shew out of a good conversation his works** with meekness of wisdom.*

Thirdly our conversation ought to be marked by good works. I saved the good works as the last mark of a godly conversation because it is the most common test of faith, often inappropriately so.

There are a lot of good people in our world, in our esteem. Many of them are born again and saved, many of them, maybe more of them, are not saved at all but may still be very religious.

Many Christians seem to think that being good is the test of redemption. The truth is there are many vary lost people who are good people in worldly appearances. There are lost people who appear as far more good, benevolent, giving, kind, and compassionate than many born again Christians but one's goodness will not give them an entrance into heaven.

From God's perspective,

*Romans 3:12 - They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; **there is none that doeth good, no, not one.***

We are all undone by our sin and there is nothing good in us apart from the Lord Jesus Christ.

The marks of a Godly Conversation as given in verse 13 of our text is that a born again Christian's life ought to be marked by,

- The informed direction of the Word of God
- The willingness to surrender to the Word of God in meekness
- The goodness of living a life conformed to the image of Christ.

2. The Mastering of a Godly Spiritual Conversation – Characteristics (seven)

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B. A Spiritual Conversation

1. Marks of a Spiritual Conversation
 - Knowledge from above
 - Meekness/Surrender
 - Good

James 3:17 - But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

Now understand that all of these characteristics are defined from God's point of view, not earthly opinions.

These seven characteristics develop in us as we spiritually mature and result in the marks we have just examined.

- **Pure** – Pure in the sight of God. One might say this is our righteousness with God.

1 John 3:1–3 - Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. ²Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

³***And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.***

- **Peaceable** - To be peaceable is to desire peace. Which does not always mean we will have peace or be in peaceful circumstances. This is to have peace with God and then if possible peace with our fellowman.

Romans 12:18 - If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

- **Gentle** – This is to nurture others with the truths God has revealed to you.

1 Thessalonians 2:7 - But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:

There is no reason for a Christian to be harsh or cruel with the Word of God.

- **Easy to be Intreated** – This is to be approachable and inviting to all forms of questions and queries.

1 Peter 3:15 - But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

- **Full of Mercy and Good Fruits** – Mercy is to not give someone what they deserve. You have mercy on them. Good Fruits and Mercy go hand in hand. When God says,

Matthew 7:20 - Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

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This verse helps us understand what these good fruits should be, our whole text. But understand that Mercy and Good Fruits go together. If you are not merciful you will not be kind, gentle, and compassionate toward those around you.

- **Without Partiality** - As previously discovered we are not to be respecters of persons. We must love all those whom our Lord loves. Which is everyone.
- **Without Hypocrisy** – Simply put don't be an actor. Don't try to be someone you are not. God wants you to have a real relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and to be real in your conversation in life.

Rom 8.29

God has a clear purpose for every born again Christian and it is,

*Romans 8:29 - For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be **conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

Have you ever wondered, what does it look like to be conformed to the image of Christ?

Our text give you a great first look into the characteristics of a life conformed to the image of Christ.

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- Pure
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- Easily Intreated
- Mercy and Good Fruits

C. A Secular Conversation

In contrast to a Spiritual Conversation there is this Secular Conversation.

The Secular Conversation is describe as (vs 14-16),

- **A heart full of bitter envying and strife (vs 14)** – Do you see this in the world of lost people? The truth is even some Christians deal with some of this worldly strife and bitterness.
- **A Heart full of false truths (Lying) (vs 14)** – Worldly people often promote a truth to them, but it is a false truth that lies against the absolute truth of God and His Word.
- **An Earthly Wisdom (vs 15)** – Their wisdom is not the lofty wisdom of God. It is a lowly worldly wisdom.
- **They are Earthly, Sensual, Devilish (vs 15)** – To be devilish is to be rebellious just like the devil. Without any doubt secular, earthly, people are rebellious when it comes to the things of God. They are Devilish.
- **They are in and cause Confusion (vs 16)**

Our text calls us to develop Spiritual Wisdom from above rather than Secular Wisdom, and challenges us to live a lifestyle true to Godly Spiritual Wisdom.

D. The Sown Fruit of Righteousness (vs 18)

Ecc1 11.1

James 3:18 - And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

Notice the Fruit of Righteousness. The fruit if righteousness is from above, not of the earth.

The Fruit of Righteousness must be sown. Just like planting seeds. When you plant grass seed you broadcast it. You toss it out.

*Ecclesiastes 11:1 - **Cast thy bread upon the waters:** for thou shalt find it after many days.*

The Word of God is our meat or our bread.

Psalm 126:6 - He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

We need to proclaim,

- **Life's most important truth** – The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
- **The Truth's of the Word of God** – The seeds of righteousness.

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What is your conversation?

What is your lifestyle?

CrossRoads Baptist Church, Sept 25, 2022

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- Bitter/Strife
- False Truths/Lying
- Earthly Wisdom
- Confusion

D. The Sown Fruit of Righteousness