



Just Grow Up!

James - A Manual for Maturity

Wise and Understanding

1. Read Proverbs 2:1-6. What does this passage say is needed by a person who wants wisdom? Where does true wisdom come from? Read Proverbs 3:13-19. What benefits does this passage say comes to those who have wisdom? What is the significance of the fact that God used wisdom when He created everything?
2. How would you define wisdom? Listen to this definition of wisdom: Wisdom is the ability to discern between what is right and what is wrong; between what is good and what is the best; and then making the decision to do the best. What are the elements involved in this definition? What must a person know in order to be wise? What do you think is the most important element of this definition?
3. Pastor Rick said that a person who is wise does not compromise their integrity. What is integrity? How does that fit with the above definition of wisdom?
4. James talks a lot about anger. Why is being angry the opposite of being wise?
5. From the sermon, what are the three attitudes we can have that cause us to argue with others? Which one do you struggle with the most? How does being humble combat these attitudes?
6. Is there someone in your life that you consider to be a wise person? Who is it? What is the best advice you have ever received from a wise person? Did you take the advice?

ANSWERS

1. This passage tells us that if you want wisdom, you must seek after it just like you would if you were seeking a hidden treasure, you must work at it. True wisdom comes from God. If God needed wisdom in order to create the universe, how much more do we need it to live our lives?
2. The elements of this definition is in order to be wise you must: A. Know the difference between what is right and what is wrong. B. Understand what it is that God wants us to do in life so that we can determine what the best thing would be to do. C. Have the strength of will to choose to actually do what the best thing would be. The key element in wisdom is to do the wise thing. It means nothing if you know the difference between what is right a wrong, be able to tell what I the best thing to do, but then not do it. Application is what makes a person wise. A person must know what God says in His word to be able to do any of these things, that is where wisdom is found.
3. Integrity is to do the right thing in any given situation when no one else is looking and no matter what the consequences might be. This fits the definition of wisdom because it is discerning what is right and doing it no matter what.
4. Anger is the opposite of wisdom because when you are angry, you are out of control, you are not thinking about what is right, and you are not doing what is best for yourself or the other person.
5. The three attitudes are having an attitude of comparing yourself to someone, condemning another person for something they do, and contradicting what others say. In each of these attitudes, we are putting ourselves and what we think in front of what is best for the other person. It is elevating ourselves above others. Being humble is the opposite, it is seeing the needs of others above our own need to be right.