

MAIN POINT

Mature Christians apply what they know in humility and love.

INTRODUCTION

What is the best advice you have been given? How has this advice helped you?

If you were looking for wisdom or advice, where would you look?

Smart phones have put so much information at our fingertips. Need to know of a good restaurant? Ask your friends on Facebook. Having weird medical symptoms? Check WebMD. Are you lost? Pull out Google Maps. With all this information readily available to us, it is easy to believe we have it all figured out. The problem is that information alone isn't enough—we need the wisdom to apply it. True wisdom can only be found when we search for it from above.

DISCUSSION

> READ JAMES 3:13-18 AND 1 CORINTHIANS 8:1.

What is the difference between wisdom and knowledge? What is an example of each? How do we confuse these two?

Are all sources of wisdom equally valid? Why or why not? How do you determine what wisdom to follow?

What examples of worldly wisdom can you think of off the top of your head? How often have you consulted these sources over the last month?

Read Ephesians 2:1-4 and compare the state of our hearts in our sin to the way James described worldly wisdom. What parallels do you see? What does this teach you about the nature of worldly wisdom?

Most people search for wisdom in one of the following places: Senses-What I feel; Self-What I think; Society-What others think; or Scripture-What God thinks. Which of these sources do you depend on the most? If you said something other than Scripture, then how is it worldly in the way that James describes?

In verse 15, James said earthly wisdom is demonic. Have you ever thought about it this way? What do these words mean? How does this help us recognize worldly wisdom?

What differentiates the traits of heavenly wisdom from earthly wisdom?

How could you use these traits to test wisdom that you receive from others? Why should we meditate upon or memorize a list like this?

What connection did Paul draw between knowledge and love in 1 Corinthians 8?

How might we tear down other believers when we exercise our knowledge without love's limitation?

APPLICATION

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25. Why is the cross of Christ the apex of wisdom? When people seek you out for wisdom, how could you point them back to the cross?