

CHURCH MUSKOKA STLYE LIVING ROOMS PRESENTS
Earthly Wisdom versus Heavenly - JAMES 3:17

MEMORY VERSE - JAMES 3:17

“But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, without hypocrisy.”

OPEN PRAYERTIME

PART 1: BREAKING THE ICE: (10 min)
Share your favourite Bible verse?

PART 2: LOOK TO THE BOOK: (50 min)

Eight Words for Wisdom in verse 17.

1. hagnos hag-nos' - pure enough to approach the gods
Wisdom that is cleansed of all ulterior motives, so cleansed of self, that it has become pure enough to see God. Worldly wisdom would want to escape God's gaze for fear of judgement.

Do you have this kind of wisdom?

2. eirenikos i-ray-nee-kos' - peaceable
The deeper meaning is the true wisdom that produces right relationships between person and person and between person and God. There is a kind of wisdom that actually separates man from man and man from God. But true wisdom from heaven brings people closer to one another and God.

Which wisdom is at work in your life?

3. epieikes ep-ee-i-kace' – gentle
The person who knows how to forgive when the strict justice gives him the full right to condemn.

Are you that kind of person? Want to be?

4. eupieithes yoo-pi-thace' - easy to obey/persuade
Two possible meanings but in this context it probably means easy to persuade... in the sense of not being stubborn, and of being willing to listen to reason.

How are you doing with this?

5. eleos el'-eh-os - mercy

Greeks defined as pity for a man who is suffering unjustly. But Christian meaning goes much farther... mercy for a man who is in trouble even if the trouble is His own fault. Mercy and love for those who keep messing up and the fault is theirs. Hey doesn't that sound a lot like how God treats us? Aren't you glad?

Is this how you treat others?

What Bible verses come to mind for you?

We have never truly pitied someone until we have helped them... out of love... with no thought of self... and with no thought of condemnation toward them for their failure...

This is where the next Greek word is connected.

6. karpos kar-pos' - fruit

Our mercy for someone who is messing up again and again must lead to action friends... doesn't that make sense...?

How can our mercy for others lead to action? Give examples (Think in terms of relational mercy in the church body)

7. adiakritos ad-ee-ak'-ree-tos - undivided

This means not wavering... knows the right course and does not waiver... from it... ever.

Do you find this hard?

8. anupokritos an-oo-pok'-ree-tos - without hypocrisy

This wisdom never conceals its real aims or motives... it is honest and transparent never claims to be what it is not.

How are you doing with transparency rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 10 and share with the group. What is it that hinders your transparency?

What would a church that operates with this kind of wisdom be like? What is the only way will ever be able to be that church?

PRAY FOR US THE SPIRIT TO COME WITH POWER.

PART 3:

Break into groups men and women and in confidence share something that you struggle with but have not been able to tell anyone (if you are able) – (please no counselling from others).

PRAY FOR THE SPIRIT TO HELP EACH OTHER.