

I. Introduction

1. James begins this section (13-18) by going back to 3:1 where he warns brethren to think before they become teachers: “My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.”
2. He continues in verse 13 by emphasizing that teachers must not only control their tongues but live an exemplary life.
3. While he has in mind teachers, his message can/should be applied to all of us.

II. Questions

1. How do the “wise and understanding” show their good conduct?
2. How are works done in the “meekness of wisdom”?
3. Where does the “wisdom” in verse 14 come?

III. Things that destroy teachers/brethren

1. Bitter envy (v. 14a)

1. What is envy?
2. What is *bitter* envy?
3. What causes “bitter envy” in hearts?

2. Strife (Selfish ambition) (v. 14b)

1. How did apostles show selfish ambition? (Lk. 22: 24-30)
2. How did Jesus answer their desire?

3. Boasting (v. 14c)

1. Why would boasting follow envy and selfish ambition?

4. Lie against the truth (vv. 14d)

1. Why would envy, selfish ambition and boasting *produce* rejection of the truth?

IV. Things that are a must for good teachers/brethren

1. Purity (v. 17a)

1. What does a pure life produce?
2. What does an impure life produce?

2. Peaceable (v. 17b)

1. How are purity and peace connected? (Isa. 32:17)

3. Gentle (v. 17c)

1. Jude 1:22-23 teaches that people must be treated differently.
2. Give examples of Jesus treating people differently.

4. Willing to yield, reasonable (v. 17d)

1. Why is it important to be “willing to yield” when we study? (Acts 17:11)
2. Why is it important to be “reasonable” when we help people who have sinned? (Gal. 6:1)

5. Full of mercy and good fruits (v. 17e)

1. How important is our showing mercy when a sinner has been forgiven? (2 Cor. 2:4-8)

2. List good fruits that you expect the teacher to bear.

3. What about the good fruits that we are to bear? Is the list different from what you expect the teacher to bear?

6. Without partiality (v. 17g)

1. Two thoughts here:
 - a) Shows no partiality or favoritism to anyone.
 - b) He is undivided in his convictions and judgments.

7. Without hypocrisy (v. 17h)

1. Sincerity is must not only for teachers but for all of us.
2. Why do some pretend? (Phil. 1:14-18)

8. Sows peace (18)

1. Peace is sown from _____

Examples of wisdom in action

1. Paul’s letter to Philemon. (Philemon)
2. Paul’s attitude toward those at Thessalonica. (1 Thess. 2:1-13)