

Ancient Wisdom for Modern-Day Times

Two Types of Wisdom

Week 7: April 21, 2024

What is Truth?

1. Truth is more than abstract truths.
2. Truth is more than a series of experiences.
3. Truth is more than personalized truths.
4. Truth is relational.

I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. (John 14:6)

5. Truth is a Person.

How Does Truth Reveal Itself Through Followers of Jesus?

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. (James 3:13)

Earthly Wisdom

But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. (James 3:14-16)

1. Earthly wisdom.

I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? (John 3:12)

2. Unspiritual wisdom.

Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. (Romans 8:5-8)

3. Demonic wisdom.

“Did God really say...” (Genesis 3:1b, 3a, 4)

Godly Wisdom

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. (James 3:17)

1. Godly wisdom is pure.
2. Godly wisdom is peace-loving.

No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. (Hebrews 12:11)

3. Godly wisdom produces godly fruit.

Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness. (James 3:18)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. (Galatians 5:22-26)

Discussion Questions

1. The sermon talked about different realities of truth. Which area of truth makes the most sense to you (or not)? Explain why.
2. How do you discern what is true (or not)? Explain how.
3. In your own experiences, what are the differences between earthly and godly wisdom?
4. How can you be an example of godly wisdom revealing peace, impartiality, and godly perspective to someone this week?

News and Notes:

HAVEN Youth Camp Registration DUE today. Register at www.vcpc.ca.

75th Anniversary Banquet tickets are available TODAY. Register at back table.

Mentoring Moments with Pastor Andy Tuesdays from 11am-noon. Blue House Basement.

Services, events, programs, and small groups are online at www.vcpc.ca.