

Sermon on James 3:13-4:12

Title: Real Wisdom and a Unifying Community

Series: Resilient

James 1:2-3

Resilient Christians thrive in a unified community.

In James 3:13-4:12, James identifies two threats to unity in a Christian community.

1. Confusing divisive zealotry for authentic wisdom.
2. The frustration of our own seductive affections.

### 1. Resilient Christians Discern Authentic Wisdom

**James 3.13** *Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.*

Meekness ≠ weakness.

Meekness describes a gentleness, a humility rooted in not being overly impressed with oneself.

#### A. Discerning Worldly Wisdom

James 3:14

#### B. Displaying Heavenly Wisdom

James 3:17-18

Christ Jesus displays each of these attributes.

Paul described as “**Christ** the power of God and the **wisdom** of God (1 Cor 1:24).”

### 2. Resilient Christians Root Out Seductive Affections

#### A. The root of conflict

James 4:1-2

Possibly James uses “murder” metaphorically in keeping with Jesus’s words in Matthew 5:21-22.

“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.”

#### B. The danger of false allegiances

James 4:4

James 4:5

Exodus 20:4-5

Ex. 20: 4 “You shall not make for yourself a carved image... 5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God **am a jealous** God...”

#### C. The grace of genuine repentance

James 4:6

The two sides of real repentance

##### i. Humility

James 4:7-10

##### ii. New Obedience

James 4:11-12