

James 3:13-4:4

Wisdom & Self Obsession

James divides his attention in this section between wisdom and a collection of qualities that illustrate self obsession, the attitude that “nothing matters more than my comfort and convenience, at any cost to everyone around me.”

- What are the consequences of self obsession that James mentions?
- How is wisdom an antidote or corrective for self-obsession?
- How is “wisdom from above” related to God obsession (“nothing matters more than God’s glory at any cost to myself”)?

<p>¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.</p>	
	<p>¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.</p>
<p>¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.</p>	
	<p>4 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ² You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴ You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.</p>