

Recap: How do we experience social restoration?

Phase 1: Social Distinction

Social restoration begins when followers of Jesus embrace there are no social distinctions.

Phase 2: Social Action

Social restoration demands that followers of Jesus put their faith into social action.

Phase 3: Social Language

Social restoration requires followers of Jesus to do the heart work to bring about redemptive social language.

How are we to navigate these culturally complex, emotionally charged, socially intense times to help bring about social restoration?

Phase 4: Social _____

¹³ 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

Command: Walk in _____.

Definition: Wisdom – “The skill of living life well in God’s universe.”

What exactly does walking in wisdom look like?

Watch out for _____ wisdom.

¹⁴ But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. ¹⁵ Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

James 3:14-16

Counterfeit wisdom:

- Fueled by _____.
- Sounds _____, but its source is _____.
- Produces _____, _____, and _____.

True wisdom _____ takes the _____ road.

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

Pure: “Holy, without moral defect, originally – ‘what awakens awe.’”

Peace-loving: “Characterized by or prompting a state of wholeness or wellbeing; right relationships between individuals and between individuals and God.”

Considerate: “Not insisting on the right to enforce the strict letter of the law or custom; being merciful, lenient.”

Submissive: “Willing and open to adopting another position, belief or course of action with sufficient reason or evidence; open to reason, willing to listen, not stubborn.”

Full of mercy/good fruit: “Compassion moved to action, pity for the one who is suffering unjustly, and pity for the one who suffering was brought on by themselves.”

Impartial: “Not tending to cause factions or divisions within a group; not being judgmental or divisive, free from prejudice.”

Sincere: “Without hypocrisy or pretense; it never pretends to be what it is not and it never acts a part to gain its own ends.”

True wisdom sows seeds of _____.

Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

James 3:18

Social restoration is cultivated by followers of Jesus sowing peace as true social wisdom.

Discussion Questions:

1. How is the wisdom from God different from counterfeit wisdom? Explain.
2. What are some sources of counterfeit wisdom in your life? What steps will you take to take the “high road”?
3. How will you specifically cultivate peace in your life?
4. Take some time to re-read James 3:17. Prayerfully ask the Lord to fill you with His wisdom.