

James 3:13-4:12

Unity and Wisdom

Sermon Notes for November 3, 2013, by Pastor Dennis R. Tuuri

- I. Observations from John 17
 - A. A Prayer for Our Unity - v. 21-23
 - 1. He Asks for Unity - It Is **Gift**, First and Foremost
 - 2. This Unity Images the **Inter-Trinitarian Unity** (Perichoresis)
 - 3. This Unity is **Evangelistically Effective**
 - 4. This Unity Comes From the Gift of **Glory** - v. 22
 - 5. This Unity Visibly Manifests the **Love of God** - v. 23
 - B. Ending with an **Oath** That We Can Rely On - v. 26
 - C. Eliciting, as Gospel, Our Response - Eph. 4:1-3
Clearing the Little Gray Cells
- II. Implications from John 17
 - A. Unity and Our Evangelistic Vision - Practical and Pastoral Links
People won't like us
God won't trust us
 - B. Unity and the Word - John 17:6,8,14,17,20' 17:1/18:1; Pastoral Search
 - C. Unity, Diversity, and Community Groups
 - D. Unity and Kook Points - What the Gospel Isn't (Distinguishing Root and Fruit)
- III. Wisdom and Unity - James 3:17 (3:13-4:12)
 - A. Header - Wisdom and Conduct 3:13
 - B.,. Jealousy, Selfish Ambition and Disunity 3:14-16
 - C. Wisdom From Above - 3:17, 18
 - D. Quarrels and Fights 4:1

James 3:17 (NKJV)
¹⁷But the wisdom that is from above is
first pure,
then peaceable,
gentle,
willing to yield,
full of mercy and good fruits,
without partiality
and without hypocrisy.

"Biblical," Censorious Ditch, Gen.,. 3:12

Follow-up Questions

- 1. How would you rate yourself on ministering glory to others?
- 2. How would you rate yourself at bringing your knowledge to others, and joyfully receiving theirs?
- 3. Do you go out of your way to engage with those who attend RCC, but who are not like you?
- 4. Can you think of an example from this past month in which you were "willing to yield"?
- 5. Have you made progress this year on Bible-reading and prayer?
- 6. Are there people at RCC you are at odds with (not at unity with)? What are you going to do about it? (Mt. 18; 5:23)
- 7. Are there sins of speech you should confess to God, and perhaps to others