

A FAITH THAT PLANTS SEEDS OF PEACE

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Jesus: "Blessed are the PEACEMAKERS, for they are the ones that God will call his children."

"If you are truly a wise and understanding person, it will be seen in your life by the good deeds you do out of the humility that always comes from wisdom. BUT if in your heart, you are selfish, jealous, or bitter toward others, don't think you're wise, because it's a lie! That's never wisdom from God; instead it's from the world, and your unspiritual nature, and from the Devil himself!"

James 3:13-15

"For whenever there is envy or selfish ambition, you'll always find confusion, unrest, disharmony, rebellion, and every kind of evil." James 3:16 (Amp)

"Real wisdom is pure, then peaceful, then considerate. It is not defensive, full of mercy and helpful, impartial and free from hypocrisy. When PEACEMAKERS plant SEEDS OF PEACE, they will harvest JUSTICE." James 3:17-18

SIX SEEDS TO PLANT FOR PEACEFUL RELATIONSHIPS

1. IF I'M WISE, I WON'T

"Real wisdom is first of all PURE." James 3:17

"The Lord delights in pure words." Prov. 15:26 (NLT)

"God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and to tell it in love." Eph. 4:15 (Mes)

2. IF I'M WISE, I WON'T

"Real wisdom is . . . PEACEFUL." James 3:17

"Any fool can start arguments: the wise thing is to stay out of them." Prov. 20:3 (TEV)

"A wise man controls his temper. He knows that anger causes mistakes." Prov. 14:29 (LB)

3. IF I'M WISE I WON'T

"Real wisdom is . . . CONSIDERATE." James 3:17

"courteous" (LB) "gentle with people" (TEV)

"We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. For even Christ did not please himself but, as it's written, 'The insults of those who insulted you fell on me.'" Rom. 15:1-3 (NIV)

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Gal. 6:2 (NIV)

4. IF I'M WISE, I WON'T

"Real wisdom is . . . NOT DEFENSIVE." James 3:17

Greek: "eupeithes" = reasonable "open to reason" (RSV)
"it allows discussion and is willing to yield to others" (LB)

"A fool thinks he needs no advice but a wise man listens to others." Prov. 12:15 (LB)

5. IF I'M WISE, I WON'T

"Real wisdom is FULL OF MERCY AND HELPFUL." James 3:17

"Love forgets mistakes; nagging about them parts the best of friends." Prov. 17:9 (LB)

"Kind words bring life, but cruel words crush your spirit." Prov. 15:4

6. IF I'M WISE, I WON'T

"Real wisdom is FREE FROM PREJUDICE AND HYPOCRISY." James 3:17 (TEV)

adiakritos & anypokritos = no hidden prejudice & no hypocrisy

"Show proper respect to everyone." 1 Peter 2:17 (NIV)

"Accept each another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God." Rom. 15:7 (NIV)

"The secret is Christ himself; in him lie hidden all God's treasures of wisdom" Col. 2:3 (NEB)