

# My Behavior Reveals the Condition of My Inner Life

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James 3:16-4:6

**Author:** James, brother of Jesus, leader of Jerusalem church

**Recipients:** Messianic Jewish house churches outside Palestine

**Genre:** Wisdom literature—Messianic Jewish author—Jewish thinking

**Overarching insight:** My outward behavior reveals the condition of my inner life

**Example 1:** *For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind.* James 3:16

- Envy and selfish ambition are invisible—conditions of the inner life.
- They produce visible effects: disorder, wickedness of every kind.

1983 developing leaders among missionaries

**Example 2:** *But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.* James 3:17

- The wisdom from above is also invisible—a condition of inner life.
- It produces visible effects: purity, peace, gentleness, readiness to yield, mercy, good fruits, impartiality, transparency.

**What is wisdom?**

- Wisdom comes from God; hence its core component is love.
- Wisdom carries ability to apply God's truth to human life beneficially
- Wisdom is an outflow of human maturity

**Example 3:** *Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you?* James 4:1

- Cravings (passions) at war within—conditions of the inner life.
- They produce conflicts (quarrels) and disputes.

**A critical component of “behavior” — speech.**

- Crucial in families => how we speak to each other.
- A parish is a family
- Our process during this period of transition searching for a new Rector

**The condition of my inner life is transformed in discipleship**

- Living in Christ’s Presence — abiding — will change you
- Sunday morning, without discipleship, is not enough
- Living in Christ’s Presence ...
  - my sins are forgiven
  - my wounds are healed
  - the power of destructive behavior is broken
  - Christlikeness is formed within

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