



## Talk About

1. *What do you think you need if you are going to have a good life (a life of meaning, purpose, joy etc)*

2. *Reflect on the following quote:*

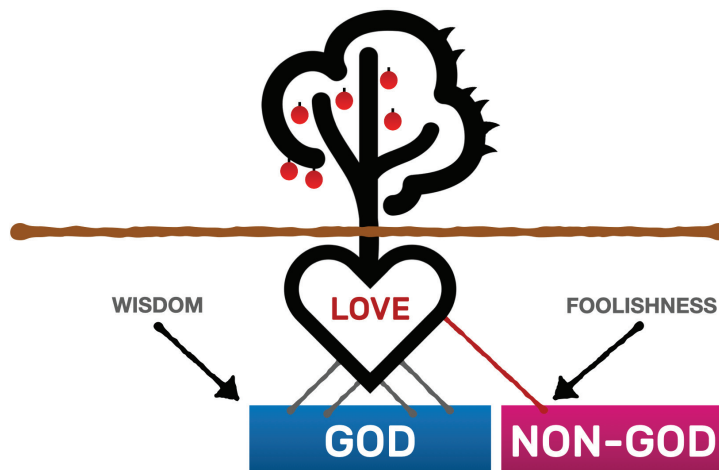
*I have often wondered, that persons who make a boast of professing the Christian religion, namely, love, joy, peace, temperance, and charity to all men, should quarrel with such rancorous animosity, and display daily towards one another such bitter hatred, that this, rather than the virtues they claim, is the readiest criterion of their faith.*

*Baruch Spinoza (1632-1677)*

*What do you think of his observation? What might be the cause?*

## Review

3. *Spend some time reviewing the model presented in the sermon on James 3.13-4.3. See if you can explain the diagram to one another.*



4. Read James 3.13-18. List the fruit of both “wisdom from above” and “wisdom from below”.

 Read James 4.1-10

 Explore

5. According to James, what causes the “warfare” that is occurring in the church?

6. Why do you think this leads to such hostility?

7. What is wrong with how they are asking God? What does this show about their hearts?

8. Link the phrase with its source. Where do you hear these ideas communicated in our society today?

“my life for me”

**WISDOM FROM ABOVE**

“your life for me”

**WISDOM FROM BELOW**

“my life for you”

9. James calls the church “adulterous people”. Why does he frame their sin in terms of marital unfaithfulness? (see Hosea 3.1)

10. Why are you not able to be a friend of both God and the world? (why can't you be a dual citizen?)

11. What is the solution that James encourages?

12. *How does God's promise in v6 and v10 enable our response?*

13. *How will their desires ultimately be satisfied?*

## Action

14. *Why do you fight? Which desires (power, approval, comfort, security) do you feel most keenly?*

15. *How are you tempted to satisfy these in things that are "not-God"?*

16. *How does God in the gospel meet these desires in a better way?*

17. Spend some time reflecting on the following quote:

*"In all doubting, fears, storms of conscience, look at Christ continually. Do not argue with Satan, he desires nothing better; bid him go to Christ, and He will answer him."*

*Thomas Wilcox*