

## ***James 3:13-18 – Two Kinds of Wisdom***

***True wisdom can be measured by the depth of a person's character. Foolishness leads to disorder, but wisdom leads to peace.***

### **Read James 3:13-18**

V. 13 – Wouldn't it seem that one must first possess true wisdom to even be capable of honestly answering this question? Notice how James then goes on to explain.

For those who do not care about true wisdom but only want the status of being thought wise, the question is confronting.

For those who honestly aspire to be wise, the question is an invitation.

V. 13 - James continues his theme of declaring the correlation of "Faith and Deeds" (2:14). How are those deeds to be conducted? Look up: Psalm 111:10, Micah 6:8

Genuine wisdom, like faith, is a practical matter; it shows up in how one lives. Literally James says, "Let him show his good behavior by his deeds in the humility of wisdom." Wisdom, then, is not something we should merely possess in our head; if we are wise at all, it is something we will demonstrate in our conduct.

V. 14 & 15 – Verse 15 defines the attitude of verse 14.

Look up: Proverbs 1:22

V. 15 - How does he characterize earthly wisdom? Look up: John 14:30

The adjectives build upon each other in an ascending scale of wickedness; First, "earthly origin" which is obviously inferior to heavenly origin. James then calls: bitter envy and selfish ambition, "unspiritual", denoting a source lacking the Spirit of God. Finally, to leave no doubt about the evil source of the envy and ambition, James says they are literally demonic: of the "devil".

V. 16 - What is the result of 'earthly wisdom?' Compare with 1 Corinthians 14:33

The opposite of this evil practice is not a state of "moral neutral" but of significant peace-seeking. James wants peace for the church because peace is the environment in which righteousness can flourish. Look up: Romans 12:18

V. 17 - How does he describe 'heavenly wisdom'? Compare with 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and Galatians 5:22

Notice how Heavenly wisdom allows one to yield status, care for others, and enable individuals to submit and learn from others; all in contrast to the bitterness, envy and selfish ambition of false spirituality.

Since true wisdom comes from God, we have to examine where our reliance is placed. To ask for wisdom, as frequently as it is required, demands an active prayer life (James 1:5). It requires a conscious dependence on God--in humility.

V. 18 – Although the sight of a healthy and vibrant harvest brings joy to the one who tended the field, when taking into account the work involved of preparing the land, sowing, nurturing, and waiting, what might be the reality of our sowing process?

Look up: Mathew 5:9-12

*Careful winsome speech and wise loving words are the seeds of peace. God loves peacemakers.*

*Greater love has no one than this that he lay down his life for his friends.  
– John 15:13*