

Heavenly Wisdom Vs. Earthly Wisdom

James 3:13-18

Heavenly Wisdom Versus Earthly Wisdom

- ▶ Context:
- ▶ **"Let him show..." James 3:13**
 - Be doers, not hearers only. 1:19-27; 2:1-13; 3:2-12
 - Truly wise person demonstrates application of what he knows. cf. 2 Timothy 2:15; Matthew 4:1-11
- ▶ **"... Works in meekness of wisdom."**
 - "Strength under control"

Heavenly Wisdom Verses Earthly Wisdom

- ▶ Seek after wisdom. Proverbs 3:13-18; 4:7-9
- ▶ Walk with wisdom. Ephesians 5:15-17
- ▶ More than one kind of wisdom. James 3:13-18

Heavenly Wisdom Versus Earthly Wisdom

- ▶ Contrast in origin. James 3:15-17
- ▶ Earthly wisdom is not from above.
- ▶ **Earthly** "this kind of wisdom does not come from God; it is characteristic of people' or 'this is the kind of wisdom that people produce" (Greek-English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domain)
- ▶ cf. 2 Corinthians 10:5

Heavenly Wisdom Versus Earthly Wisdom

- ▶ Contrast in origin. James 3:15-17
- ▶ Earthly wisdom is not from above.
- ▶ **"Sensual."** Rendered as "natural" in 1 Corinthians 2:14; 15:44,46 and "sensual" in James 3:15; Jude 19.
 - What feels right, appeals to the emotions, the passions.

Heavenly Wisdom Versus Earthly Wisdom

- ▶ Contrast in origin. James 3:15-17
- ▶ Earthly wisdom is not from above.
- ▶ **"Devilish."** (demonic) "Resembling or proceeding from an evil spirit, demon-like." (Thayer)

Heavenly Wisdom Versus Earthly Wisdom

Contrast in origin. James 3:15–17

- ▶ Heavenly wisdom is from above.
- ▶ Comes from God. James 1:17; cf. 1 Corinthians 2:1 ff
 - ▶ Note: James 1:5–8

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Heavenly Wisdom Versus Earthly Wisdom

Contrast in nature.

- ▶ Earthly Wisdom. James 3:14, 16
 - Full of bitter jealousy. cf. 1 Corinthians 1:10; 3:3; 2 Corinthians 12:20
 - Faction. cf. Galatians 5:13–15; 19–21.
- ▶ Extols as virtues such qualities as:
 - Power
 - Position
 - Privilege
 - Prestige
 cf. Apostles. Matthew 18:1 ff; 20:20–28

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Heavenly Wisdom Versus Earthly Wisdom

Contrast in nature.

Heavenly Wisdom. James 3:17

- ▶ *"Pure."* No compromise.
 - Men have become murders on pretense of doing God's will. Matthew 10:17, 21; 24:9–10
- ▶ *"Peaceable."* cf. Romans 12:18
- ▶ *"Gentle."* Not harsh. cf. 2 Timothy 2:24–25

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Heavenly Wisdom Versus Earthly Wisdom

Contrast in nature.

Heavenly Wisdom. James 3:17

- ▶ *"Easy to be entreated."* *"willing to yield"* (NKJV)
 - "pertaining to being easily persuaded, with the implication of being **open to reason** or **willing to listen**, one who is easily persuaded, open to reason." (Greek-English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domain)

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Heavenly Wisdom Versus Earthly Wisdom

Contrast in nature.

Heavenly Wisdom. James 3:17

- ▶ *"Full of mercy."* Matthew 5:7; cf. James 2:12–13
- ▶ Producing *"good fruits."* cf. James 1:22; 2:26
- ▶ *"Without partiality."* (KJV) James 2:1–13
- ▶ *"Without hypocrisy."* "In the NT, it came to mean one without hypocrisy or pretense, unfeigned, genuine, real, true, sincere (Romans 12:9; 2 Corinthians 6:6; 1 Timothy 1:5; 2 Timothy 1:5; 1 Peter 1:22; James 3:17)." (Complete Word Study Dictionary)

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Heavenly Wisdom Versus Earthly Wisdom

Contrast in fruits.

Earthly wisdom. James 3:16

- ▶ *"Confusion."* cf. 1 Timothy 1:3–7
 - "instability, a state of disorder, disturbance, confusion: 1 Corinthians 14:33" (Thayer)
- ▶ *"Every vile (evil) deed."*
 - "Vile, evil, wicked, foul, corrupt, good-for-nothing, depraved, worthless, mediocre, unimportant." (from The Complete Word Study Dictionary)

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Heavenly Wisdom Versus Earthly Wisdom

Contrast in fruits.

- ▶ **Heavenly wisdom. James 3:18**
 - *"And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for them that make peace."*
 - Peace (instead of confusion) (cf. Matthew 5:9)
 - Righteousness (instead of every vile deed)

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Heavenly Wisdom Versus Earthly Wisdom

Conclusion:

- ▶ **Earthly wisdom** boasts good conduct. *"... glory not." James 3:14*
- ▶ **Heavenly wisdom** demonstrates good conduct done in meekness. James 3:13

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Heavenly Wisdom Versus Earthly Wisdom

Conclusion:

- ▶ What kind of wisdom do we want?
 - Earthly? No effort
 - Heavenly? Be diligent
- ▶ Regarding the gospel of Christ?
 - Earthly? No effort, No response
 - Heavenly? Obedience. Romans 6:16ff

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