

Heavenly Wisdom Versus Earthly Wisdom

James 3:13-18

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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"

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Heavenly Wisdom Versus Earthly Wisdom

Proverbs 1:7, *"The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of knowledge; (But) the foolish despise wisdom and instruction."*

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

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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)

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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. The term *psuchikós* is not a word of honor even as *sarkikós*, carnal, is not. (Complete Word Study Dictionary)
 - What feels right, appeals to the emotions, the passions.

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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)

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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 2:1ff
- ▶ Comes through prayer. 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 5:13ff; 19ff.
 - ▶ Extols as virtues such qualities as:
 - Power
 - Position
 - Privilege
 - Prestige.
- cf. Apostles.
Matthew 18:1ff; 20:20ff

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Heavenly Wisdom Versus Earthly Wisdom

Contrast in nature.

Heavenly Wisdom. James 3:17

- ▶ Pure. No compromise.
- ▶ Peaceable. cf. Romans 12:18
- ▶ Gentle. Not harsh. Matthew 18:28-30;
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 2:17
- ▶ Producing good fruits. cf. James 1:22; 2:26
- ▶ Without variance (partiality). 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
- ▶ Every vile (evil) deed.

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Heavenly Wisdom Versus Earthly Wisdom

Contrast in fruits.

- Heavenly wisdom. James 3:18
- ▶ Peace (instead of confusion)
 - ▶ Righteousness (instead of every vile deed)
 - NOTE: Righteousness will only grow in a climate of peace.

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Heavenly Wisdom Versus Earthly Wisdom

Conclusion:

- ▶ Earthly wisdom boasts. 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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