

**Wisdom from Above:
More Than Common Sense
*Part 2***

James 3:13-18

Biblically measure/evaluate what we see and hear as to:

- its merit in biblical wisdom, or
- its malignancy in demonic error

I. The Test of True Wisdom (James 3:13)

This is God's baseline for wisdom.

I. The Test of True Wisdom (James 3:13)

“Who among you is wise and understanding?” is a ‘let’s set the record straight’ clarification for God’s people.

You’ll show that wisdom in good deeds done in the gentleness of wisdom.

God’s wisdom promotes humility in us and is expressed in meekness.

I. The Test of True Wisdom (James 3:13)

Meekness/gentleness is:

- a powerful force of spiritual resolve in us
- fashioned and controlled by the Holy Spirit
- expressed as meekness (gentleness) of spirit
- as we apply His truth (special revelation) in our daily lives.

II. Worldly Wisdom (James 3:14-16)

Its Face (v14-15)

Selfish ambition “speaks of a self-seeking attitude bent on gaining advantage and prestige for oneself or one’s group.”
(*Expositor’s Bible Commentary*)

Bitter jealousy is selfish zeal or passion for your agenda at any cost.

II. Worldly Wisdom (James 3:14-16)

Its Fruit (v16)

James tells us that man's wisdom always produces "*...disorder and every evil thing*" in every context of life where it is dominant.

III. Heavenly Wisdom (James 3:17-18)

Its Face (v17)

“But the wisdom from above...”

III. Heavenly Wisdom (James 3:17-18)

Its Face (v17)

The first thing we want to root our hearts in is the origin of true wisdom; it is from God alone.

“For the Lord gives wisdom, from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.” (Prov. 2:6)

III. Heavenly Wisdom (James 3:17-18)

Its Face (v17)

“But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” (James 1:5)

III. Heavenly Wisdom (James 3:17-18)

Its Face (v17)

“Paul, a bond servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness....” (Titus 1:1)

III. Heavenly Wisdom (James 3:17-18)

Its Face (v17)

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously, and godly in the present age....” (Titus 2:12)

III. Heavenly Wisdom (James 3:17-18)

Its Face (v17)

From Titus 2:12: Sensible (sophronos) = the idea of a sound mind; to wisely maintain self-control.

Related to wise (sophros) in James 3:13: “*Who among you is wise....*”

III. Heavenly Wisdom (James 3:17-18)

Its Face (v17)

“The Christian who lives sensibly has control over the issues of life... the sensible believer does not allow circumstances or the irresponsible influence of others to distract him or affect his own judgment. He not only is careful not to become involved in things that are immoral or unspiritual, but also avoids things that are simply trivial and unproductive... he brings the unredeemed flesh under control.” *(John MacArthur)*

III. Heavenly Wisdom (James 3:17-18)

Its Face (v17)

James details some aspects of the wisdom from above as that wisdom works into and works out from our hearts:

“But the wisdom [sophia] from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.”

III. Heavenly Wisdom (James 3:17-18)

Its Face (v17)

“first pure...”

“First” (*protos*) = before anything else, God’s wisdom has a purifying effect in us.

“Pure” = unsullied moral blamelessness; holiness, cleanness

III. Heavenly Wisdom (James 3:17-18)

Its Face (v17)

This wisdom is

- an attitude of the heart
- characterized as meeekness
- a godly resolve for good
- controlled and tempered by the Holy Spirit

III. Heavenly Wisdom (James 3:17-18)

Its Fruit (v17-18)

Sensible living in Jesus is characterized by James with seven adjectives:

III. Heavenly Wisdom (James 3:17-18)

Its Fruit (v17-18)

Peaceable: Your meekness or humility fosters a willingness to promote well-being between you and others.

Gentle: Humbly patient; fair-minded, kind, and considerate when confronted with other's weaknesses/shortcomings.

Reasonable: Teachable; open to reason/receptive—willing to defer your view with sufficient reason or evidence.

III. Heavenly Wisdom (James 3:17-18)

Its Fruit (v17-18)

"Full of" modifier in the next two attributes means complete and to the full extent in every particular and degree.

Full of mercy: Compassion and willingness to help those in need, even those who wrong you. Jesus saves sinners.

Full of good fruits: Good deeds. You are eager and look for opportunities to do good in Jesus' name.

III. Heavenly Wisdom (James 3:17-18)

Its Fruit (v17-18)

Unwavering: Not wishy-washy; steady-minded; impartial. You don't play favorites or do what is expedient for selfish gain.

Without hypocrisy: Without show or pretense; genuine; sincere.

III. Heavenly Wisdom (James 3:17-18)

Its Fruit (v17-18)

The apostle Paul told the Corinthian church that spiritual warfare is not waged according to the flesh, according to man's wisdom, *"for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ."* (2 Cor. 10:3-5)

III. Heavenly Wisdom (James 3:17-18)

Its Fruit (v17-18)

What is the origin of any policy, philosophy, belief system, or methodology which is anti-God and anti-truth?

Answer: Demonic (worldly and fleshly)

III. Heavenly Wisdom (James 3:17-18)

Its Fruit (v17-18)

What is the product of any of these ideologies and philosophies which are raised up against the knowledge of God?

Answer: disorder, confusion, and perversion

III. Heavenly Wisdom (James 3:17-18)

Its Fruit (v17-18)

Why is a revolution of common sense not going to bring us the spiritual revival we truly need?

Because common sense is not the power of the gospel to change a person's heart and bring them to faith and forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

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