



Two Kinds of Wisdom

James 3:13–18

- Key question: What kind of wisdom are you living by?

1. The Test of Wisdom (13)

“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.”

- Wisdom is not just intellectual; it’s **shown in behavior**.
- A “good life” and **humble actions** are evidence of true wisdom.
- True wisdom leads to **humility**, not pride or self-promotion.

2. Earthly (False) Wisdom (14-16)

“But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition... such ‘wisdom’ does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic...”

- **Characteristics of False Wisdom:**
 - **Bitter envy**
 - **Selfish ambition**
 - Leads to **disorder** and **every evil practice**
- **Sources:** Earthly, unspiritual, demonic
- **Fruit:** Division, chaos, and sin

3. Heavenly (True) Wisdom (17-18)

“But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate...”

- **Characteristics of True Wisdom:**
 1. **Pure** – morally clean, undivided
 2. **Peace-loving** – seeks harmony
 3. **Considerate** – gentle, thoughtful
 4. **Submissive** – open to reason, humble
 5. **Full of mercy and good fruit** – compassionate actions
 6. **Impartial** – fair, just
 7. **Sincere** – without hypocrisy
- **Fruit of True Wisdom (v. 18):**
 - Righteousness is **sown in peace** by peacemakers.
 - True wisdom builds up others and communities.