

Heavenly Wisdom Versus Earthly Wisdom

James 3:13-18

1

Heavenly Wisdom Versus 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

2

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)

3

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. 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.

4

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)

5

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

6

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

7

Heavenly Wisdom Versus Earthly Wisdom

Contrast in nature.

- Heavenly Wisdom. James 3:17
 - Pure. No compromise.
 - Peaceable. cf. Romans 12:18
 - Gentle. Not harsh. cf. 2 Timothy 2:24-25

8

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)

9

Heavenly Wisdom Versus Earthly Wisdom

Contrast in nature.

- Heavenly Wisdom. James 3:17
 - Full of mercy. Matthew 5:7; cf. James 2:13
 - Producing good fruits. cf. James 1:22; 2:26
 - Without 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)

10

Heavenly Wisdom Versus Earthly Wisdom

Contrast in fruits.

- Earthly wisdom. James 3:16
 - Confusion. cf. 1 Timothy 1:3-7
 - Every vile (evil) deed.

11

Heavenly Wisdom Versus Earthly Wisdom

Contrast in fruits.

- Heavenly wisdom. James 3:18
 - Peace (instead of confusion)
 - Righteousness (instead of every vile deed)

12

Heavenly Wisdom Versus Earthly Wisdom

Conclusion:

- Earthly wisdom boasts. James 3:14
- Heavenly wisdom demonstrates good conduct done in meekness. James 3:13

13

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

14