

James 3:13–18 (ESV)

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

I. The Test of Wisdom

II. False Wisdom

- 1. the motivation of false wisdom**
- 2. the characteristics of false wisdom**
- 3. the results of false wisdom**

III. True Wisdom

- 1. the motivation of true wisdom**
- 2. the characteristics of true wisdom**
- 3. the results of true wisdom**

As James continually emphasizes, the person who professes to be a Christian must prove it by his works, his daily living. If he is a true believer, he will possess his Lord's own wisdom, and that wisdom will manifest itself in righteous, selfless, and peaceful living.

Questions for Application and Discussion:

Who in your life has exemplified and imparted godly wisdom?

What characteristics mark his or her life?

How does the world's definition of wisdom differ from Scripture's definition?

According to James 3:13, why can't someone whose life is marked by immorality be considered wise?

What's the difference between knowing facts and possessing godly wisdom?

What are practical ways that you can acquire Godly wisdom?

How will you implement these in your life?