

James 3:13 – 4:10

Earthly Wisdom Vs. Heavenly Wisdom

Lenny D'Ambrosia

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- I. Heavenly wisdom vs. worldly wisdom
(James 3:13-18)
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I. Heavenly wisdom vs worldly wisdom (James 3:13-18)

1. James shows what is practical Christian living, focusing on action instead of knowledge, doing instead of hearing.
2. You claim to be wise; however, your Christian walk does not display it.
3. You love the world more than God.

1. What are the traits of a wise and understanding individual?

James 3:13

13 Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.

1. Good behavior

2. Deeds in the gentleness of wisdom 4

1. What are the traits of a wise and understanding individual?

3. James addresses the following:

a. Wisdom

b. Friendship

This shows how your faith in Christ affects your everyday life while living in this world.

2. Describe the attributes of the two kinds of wisdom.

James 3:14-18

14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth.

15 This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic.

16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

18 And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

2. Describe the attributes of the two kinds of wisdom.

Earthly Wisdom

1. Bitter jealousy
2. Selfish ambition in your heart
3. Arrogance
4. Lies against the truth
5. Natural (worldly)
6. Demonic (from Satan)

Heavenly Wisdom

1. Pure
2. Peaceable
3. Gentle
4. Reasonable
5. Full of mercy and good fruits
6. Unwavering
7. Without hypocrisy
8. Comes from the Seed (Word) whose fruit is righteousness and is sown in peace

2. Describe the attributes of the two kinds of wisdom.

Earthly (Wordly) Wisdom

1. Earthly wisdom and false teaching arouse bitter envy and jealousy. These attributes are wrong.
2. Earthly wisdom and false teaching arouse a spirit of strife in one's heart.

Phil. 2:3-4

3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;

4 do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

2. Describe the attributes of the two kinds of wisdom.

Earthly (Wordly) Wisdom

3. Earthly wisdom and false teaching arouse a spirit of boasting and self-glorying.

Rom. 12:16

16 Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.

2. Describe the attributes of the two kinds of wisdom.

Earthly (Wordly) Wisdom

4. Earthly wisdom and false teaching arouse lies against the truth.

A. The false teacher is inconsistent with the Word of God. He is not living and teaching the truth.

Titus 1: 16

16 They profess to know God, but by *their* deeds they deny *Him*, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.

2. Describe the attributes of the two kinds of wisdom.

Earthly (Wordly) Wisdom

5. Earthly wisdom and false teaching are sensual, that is, natural (worldly) and unspiritual.

6. Earthly wisdom and false teaching are devilish or demonic.

2. Describe the attributes of the two kinds of wisdom.

Heavenly Wisdom

The source of heavenly wisdom is God.

1. **Pure** - Full of integrity, sincere. Properly motivated.

“The pure in heart are blessed, for they will see God” (Matt 5:8).

2. **Peaceable** - The opposite of aggressive and assertive.
Jesus is the prime example.

“The peacemakers are blessed, for they will be called sons of God”
(Matt 5:9).

3. **Gentle** - “The gentle are blessed, for they will inherit the earth”
(Matt 5:5).

2. Describe the attributes of the two kinds of wisdom.

Heavenly Wisdom

4. **Reasonable** - Christians are to be obedient to God's standards.

“The poor in spirit are blessed, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs”
(Matt 5:3).

5a. **Full of mercy** – Christians will look after orphans and widows in their distress.

“The merciful are blessed, for they will be shown mercy” (Matt 5:7).

5b. **Full of good fruits** – **The faithful will bear fruit.**

“Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness are blessed, for they will be filled” (Matt 5:6).

2. Describe the attributes of the two kinds of wisdom.

Heavenly Wisdom

6. **Unwavering** – Christians won't give in when they face trials.

7. **Without hypocrisy** – A Christian is not only to be a hearer of the Word; but a doer.

8. **Spreads the Seed (Word)** whose fruit is righteousness and is sown in peace.

3. What does heavenly wisdom produce?

Heavenly wisdom produces:

1. A community and a world of righteousness where everyone is experiencing and living a life of love, joy, peace, of caring and looking after each other.
2. Men and women who are at peace with God.

4. What are some of the sins that separate you from God?

James 4:1-3

1 What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?

2 You lust and do not have; so, you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so, you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask.

3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

4. What are some of the sins that separate you from God?

Lust

Murder

Envy

Fighting

Quarrelling

Refusal to ask God for help

When you ask God and do not receive, you are asking with the wrong motives.

5. Why are friends of the world enemies of God?

James 4: 4-5

4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

5 Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: “He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us”?

5. Why are friends of the world enemies of God?

1. The world is ruled by Satan and manipulated by him.
2. Friendship with the world comes from the sinful desires of the flesh and it is motivated by longing for earthly pleasure.
3. God's jealousy longs for the spirit He made to live in us.

5. Why are friends of the world enemies of God?

1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

17 The world is passing away and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

6. How does God exalt Christians if they humble themselves in His presence?

James 4:6-10

6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore, *it* says, “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

9 Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom.

10 Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

6. How does God exalt Christians if they humble themselves in His presence?

1. **Submit to God—resist the devil (v. 7).**
2. **Draw near to God and repent (v. 8).**
 - a. Apply God's Word to your life.
 - b. Ask God through prayer for strength, power, mercy and grace.
 - c. Christians must purify their hearts and quit wavering between God and temptation.

6. How does God exalt Christians if they humble themselves in His presence?

3. Be disciplined and deeply or mournfully concerned (v. 9).

a. Our hearts must mourn and weep when tempted, mourn and weep before God, asking and begging for strength and deliverance.

4. Humble yourself (v. 10).

a. When a person is tempted, if he humbles himself in the sight of God, God will lift him up.

b. God will meet his need, give him whatever he needs, and deliver him from the temptation.

7. In what way does James encourage YOU to grow in your spiritual journey?

1. Don't be a friend of the world.

a. This will lead to temptations and cause you to sin.

2. Be a friend of God.

a. Ask for help by praying and meditating on His Word to fight temptation and overcome sin.