

Wisdom: A Tale of Two Cities

James 3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.

- There is a difference between wisdom and knowledge;
- Knowledge is truth and wisdom is knowing what to do with truth; knowledge leads to information while wisdom leads to transformation; knowledge is intellectual and wisdom is behavioral;
- Biblical wisdom is walking in obedience and assurance of what Jesus says in His word and has done on the cross;
- What you believe shapes how you live; our conduct is a byproduct of our wisdom;
- Meekness, in Greek culture, was considered weak and in many ways is still considered weak in western culture; Jesus, however, sets meekness as the standard;
- Meekness does not mean to be weak, passive, or cowardly. Rather, it is a trust in God, being set free from self-promotion;

James 3:14-16 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

- In the next two sections, James lists two types of wisdom; one is biblical and the other is not;
- The first, James says, is when two affections have taken root in our hearts: bitter jealousy and selfish ambition;
- These two ambitions lead to a progressive progress in a wisdom that isn't guided by the Holy Spirit:
 - Earthly
 - Unspiritual
 - Demonic
- James concludes this section with the eventual result of this wisdom: disorder

James 3:17-18 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

- Biblical wisdom, however, is rooted in Christ and produces fruit

- Pure
- Peaceable
- Gentle
- Open to Reason
- Full of Mercy
- Good Fruit
- Impartial
- Sincere

- Biblical wisdom produces righteousness; righteousness bears fruit because it is a righteousness that we did not obtain;

- Those who are righteous are peacemakers because they are aware that they are no longer at war with God upon being rescued by Jesus