

FAITH THAT WORKS

“Two Kinds Of Wisdom”

James 3:13-18

Introduction: In his letter, James is demonstrating that one’s works, words, and wisdom reveal what a person believes. In this passage he is revealing the difference between two kinds of wisdom; one that is of divine origin and a second that is of a distorted origin.

Definition of Divine Wisdom: The ability to think and act utilizing knowledge, experience, understanding, discernment, insight and spiritual illumination.

How does one recognize divine wisdom? (3:13)

Wisdom From A Distorted Origin

- Its **Motives** Are Wrong (3:14)
- Its **Mannerisms** Are Wrong (3:15)
 - “*earthly*” in nature—the world

*“Set your mind (your affections) on things above,
and not on things on the earth.” (Colossians 3:2)*

15 *“Do not love the world
or 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, the lust of the eyes,
and the pride of life
—is not of the Father but is of the world.*

17 *And the world is passing away,
and the lust of it;*

but he who does the will of God abides forever.”
(1 John 2:15-17)

- “*sensual*” in nature—the flesh *(Romans 8:5-8)*
- “*demonic*” in nature—the enemy *(Ephesians 6:10-13)*
- Its **Manifestations** Are Wrong *(3:16)*

*“For I fear, that when I come,
I shall not find you as I wish,
lest there be contentions (debates), jealousies,
outbursts of wrath, selfish ambition, backbitings,
whisperings (rumors), conceits, tumults (controversy)....”*
(2 Corinthians 12:20)

Wisdom From A Divine Origin

- **Clean** In Its Desires *(3:17a)*
“pure then peaceable”
- **Considerate** In Its Disposition *(3:17b)*
“gentle, willing to yield”
- **Compassionate** In Its Dealings *(3:17c)*
“full of mercy and good fruits”
- **Consistent** In Its Dealings With Others *(3:17d)*
“without partiality and without hypocrisy”

Application: Which source of wisdom directs your life? *(3:18)*