



INTRODUCTION

Biblical wisdom is the most important thing any leader, teacher, parent, or individual can have. King Solomon called wisdom the “principal thing” (Prov. 4:7). Wisdom should be considered to be the highest and most noble of all possessions. Biblical wisdom is “the practical _____ of Bible _____ to real-life _____” (Steve Pettit).

THE _____ OF WISDOM CONTRASTED

James begins by pointing out a contrast in the source of wisdom. He speaks of the true wisdom that comes “from above” (v.17), and the wisdom “not from above” (v.15) which is of earth. These are two different kinds of wisdom which find their root in two different places.

Wisdom from below (v.15-16):	Wisdom from above (v.13, 17):
Comes from the _____	Comes from _____
Comes through _____	Comes through _____

THE _____ OF WISDOM CONTRASTED

James continues contrasting secular and spiritual wisdom by how it is revealed one’s life. If you want to know what kind of wisdom is internal, look at the external evidence. These characteristics of wisdom identify the source of wisdom. The root is about to be revealed through the fruit.

Wisdom from below (v. 14):	Wisdom from above (v.17):
Is _____ - “bitter envying”	Is _____ - “pure”
Is _____ - “strife”	Is _____ - “peaceable”
Is _____ - “glory not”	Is _____ - “gentle”
Is _____ - “lie not”	Is _____ - “easily entreated”
	Is _____ - “mercy and good”
	Is _____ - “without partiality and without hypocrisy”

Application: Is your life your life motivated by personal pursuits at the costs of peace? Do disorder and pettiness mark your life? Do you pursue the things of the world rather than the things of God? Or is your life characterized by gentleness and humility? Do people know you as a person of mercy, authenticity, and peace? Do you act the same way in public as you do in private? Do you build others up, rejoice in their successes, and place the needs and interests of others ahead of your own? Real faith practices wisdom.

THE _____ OF WISDOM CONTRASTED

Not only are the origins and operations of worldly and godly wisdom completely different, but so is the outcome. When secular wisdom has finished its work it leaves behind one product. When divine wisdom is complete it leaves a uniquely different one.

Wisdom from below (v. 16):	Wisdom from above (v.18):
Confused _____ - “confusion”	Relational _____ - “peace”
Carnal _____ - “every evil work”	Righteous _____ - “righteousness”

CONCLUSION

Self-centered ambition is at the root of all relational turmoil. This includes marital struggles, workplace quarrels, and church disunity. When we begin to ask, “what is best for me?” conflict will inevitably arise. Jesus told us to “deny ourselves” (Matt. 16:24). Self-centered ambition is at the heart of worldly wisdom, it is filled with envy, always comparing itself with others. In a home that is marked by selfish ambition, there will be disorder and evil. In a church that is filled with men and women driven by self-centered ambition, you will find a recipe for disaster. Worldly wisdom produces anger, bitterness, resentment, divisions, and divorce. Godly wisdom yields peace, love, intimacy, trust, fellowship, and harmony with others. May we, with purified heart and on bended knee, ask God to give us “wisdom from above” that peace and righteousness might be enjoyed.



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