

GOD'S GIFT OF WISDOM

Text: James 3:17: But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

INTRODUCTION

This wisdom from above is unique. There is none like it in worldly source. This wisdom comes to God's people in answer to prayers for those who:

1. Trust the Lord for advice.
2. Those whose cares are greater than His.
3. Those who are defeated.
4. Those who suffer.
5. The friendless.
6. For those who are frugal – tight.
7. Those with family problems.



If we don't have the wisdom for all these things, let's ask God — the Giver of every good and perfect gift — for His Divine Wisdom!

His Wisdom opposes worldly wisdom

- The world teaches self-centeredness

Hundreds of thousands of people are caught up in the struggle to “find themselves”.

Hundreds of thousands of people are encouraged by the world to “do their own thing”.

- Christ taught self denial.

Jesus says in Matthew 10:39: “He that loseth his life for My sake shall find it.” So lose yourself!

Jesus didn't say, 'Do your own thing' – but He said, "Do God's Will."

ILLUSTRATION

Christians must continually guard against self-centeredness. If you think you aren't self-centered – whose face do **you look for first when you are shown a group picture you are in???**

- The world teaches materialism.

Get ahead at all costs – accumulate material possessions.

Self-preservation is top priority.

- Christ taught of a better kingdom.

He taught the value of contentment.

He showed others the Divine wisdom of sharing.



- The world teaches rivalry.

Many so-called love groups in today's society are held together by a common hatred of another group. (Examples: the generation gap – church denominations – church factions)

- Christ taught love.

Hate the sin, but love the sinner; love the unlovely; love your enemies.

Illustration: Can you look, with compassionate love at a newspaper picture of a group you know to be attacking your way of life?



- The world teaches pride.

Pride of accomplishments – seek fame and all possible recognition.

- Christians are to glory only in Christ.

Be thrilled at what He has done for you and through you. You don't possess the things you boast of — they possess you.

- The world teaches false ideology.

The world says there are no absolutes; any “sincere” religion is all right. So, they say, you can develop your own moral standards.



- Christ is The Truth.

He is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe; Our Example for living; the Saviour King!

False religions hammer at Christianity, but they will come and go like so many hammers that cannot wear out the anvil they strike!

- Earthly wisdom is sensual.

1 John 2:16b: . . . 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.

Every manifestation of this is not from God, but from the devil.

Wisdom from above is spiritual.

Christians must watch for the devil’s influence in their minds.

- Ambitions to be pre-eminent
- Inclinations to quarrel
- Devotedness to luxury
- Tendencies to pride (even spiritual pride)
- Lack of concern for all mankind



This kind of Wisdom is beyond man — It is a gift from above.

“It is first of all, pure...”

James 3:17: But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

Wisdom enables us to keep our bodies pure, as we are the temple of God. It keeps our language pure – free from filthy words, dirty stories, malicious gossip, and nagging.

It purifies our thoughts. It is divine wisdom to think about things that are beautiful and of good report – to think about Christ!

Philippians 4:8: Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

It is a peaceable gift.

It makes peace for us and causes us to be peacemakers. It's gentle.

It is wisdom to “gently” lead the sheep, and the wisdom to speak gently to others – even when reproof is necessary.

It is compassionate – easy to be entreated.

Only by divine wisdom can we be forgiving and truly sympathetic. It is full of mercy and good fruits.



Jesus said in:

Matthew 5:7: “Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.”

Again –

James 2:13: For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.



The Holy Spirit stresses the full life, like the beauty of a fruit tree. How wonderful to see a Christian who naturally displays the full Fruit of the Spirit without skimping or scantiness.

It is without partiality and without hypocrisy.

James 1:5: If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

It's too wise to be swung into taking sides against the body of Christ, too filled with divine wisdom to be any respecter of persons.

It's the wisdom of honest zeal for things of God. There's no fake devotion for Jesus, nor expressed enthusiasm for a cause for which we will not work — and pray — and give.

We need the wisdom to see the folly of just sham religion — like putting the best fruit on top of the basket. When cheating is discovered, we are the real loser.

We have a choice of seeking the **WISDOM FROM ABOVE**, or of retaining the wisdom from below.

Wisdom from Above:

James 3:17: But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.



Wisdom from Below:

James 3:14-16:

¹⁴ But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

¹⁵ This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

¹⁶ For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

CONCLUSION

Do you want Divine wisdom, or do you want the devil to supply your wisdom?

We can exchange strife, confusion, and self-seeking for the **WISDOM FROM ABOVE** and a Spirit-filled mind and heart — pure, peaceable, gentle, compassionate, full of mercy, and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. What's your choice?

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