

**Wisdom from Above . . .
Wisdom Not From Above**

James 3:13-18

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Big-Picture Truth: Wise believers promote peace.

Observation #1: Wise deeds flow from a wise heart.

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. James 3:13-14 (New International Version)

(For a summary of wisdom from the Old Testament, see Proverbs 1:7; 2:9, 20)

. . . clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 1 Peter 5:5b (NIV)

Observation #2: False wisdom and godly wisdom couldn't look more different.

This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. James 3:15-17 (English Standard Version)

Observation #3: Wise believers promote peace.

And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness. James 3:18 (New Living Translation)

Strive for peace with everyone . . . Hebrews 12:14a (ESV)

If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. Romans 12:18 (New American Standard Bible)