

“Wise and Understanding”

James 3:13–18

What does it mean to be wise and understanding?

I. People skills surpasses all other in terms of having spiritual value.

James 3:13 — “Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.”

A. Definitions:

1. **Wise** – This is the careful _____ of knowledge for personal and righteous living. (see **Luke 6:47–49**)
2. **Understanding** - It carries the idea of _____ knowledge like that of a skilled tradesman or a professional.

B. Requirements for wisdom and understanding: (two parts)

1. **Appropriate behavior** - _____ – **v13b** “...Let him show by his good behavior his deeds...”
 - a. This include material and emotional needs (**Mark 6:34**)
2. **The correct manner** – _____ **v13c** “...in the gentleness of wisdom.”
 - a. We help people like Jesus did.

C. Biblical examples of wisdom and understanding is Abraham -

1. **Abraham ministers to the three strangers** – **Genesis 18:4–5** — “⁴“Please let a little water be brought and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree; ⁵and I will bring a piece of bread, that you may refresh yourselves; after that you may go on, since you have visited your servant.” And they said, “So do, as you have said.””

II. What behavior IS NOT wise and understanding?

- A. The symptoms of bad people skills:** **v14** *But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth.*

1. **Being dominated by** _____ – *you have bitter jealousy*
2. **Followed by** _____ - *selfish ambition in your heart*

B. Remedy for halting unrighteous people skills – **v14b** ...do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth.

1. **Repent of** _____ – *do not be arrogant*
2. **Repent of** _____ – *lie against the truth*

C. The truth is that selfish ambition is a bankrupt wisdom - **v15** *This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.*

1. **It is earthly** –
2. **It is natural** –
3. **It is demonic** –

III. God’s Imbued wisdom has an abundance of _____ characteristics. - **v17** *“But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”*

A. The cycle of Godly wisdom is continually perpetuated.

1. Fruit of righteousness produces seed of good deed that is sown by peacemakers.

THINK, PRAY and OBEY:

1. Lord, grant us to value people like you do.
2. Father, make us skilled in ministering compassionately.
3. Spirit of God, give us the strength to be peace-makers.

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I. People skill surpasses all other in terms of having spiritual value.

James 3:13 — “Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.”

A. Definitions:

1. **Wise** – 1 wise. 1A skilled, expert: of artificers. 1B wise, skilled in letters, cultivated, learned. 1C forming the best plans and using the best means for their execution. This is the careful application of knowledge for personal and righteous living.
 - a. **Jewish cultural wisdom**- Hebrews clearly understood that true wisdom was not intellectual but behavioral. So that the biggest kind of fool was one who knew truth but failed to apply it.
 - b. **Jesus mirrors this view in His teaching - Luke 6:47–49**
2. **Understanding** - It carries the idea of specialize knowledge like that of a skilled tradesman or a professional.

B. Requirements for wisdom and understanding: (two parts)

1. **Appropriate behavior - Good deeds for people – v13b** “...Let him show by his good behavior his deeds...”
 - a. This include material and emotional needs (**Mark 6:34**)
2. **The correct manner – v13c** “...in the gentleness of wisdom.”
 - a. We help people like Jesus did, **compassionately**

C. Biblical examples of wisdom and understanding is Abraham -

1. **Abraham ministers to the three strangers – Genesis 18:4–5** — “⁴“Please let a little water be brought and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree; ⁵and I will bring a piece of bread, that you may refresh yourselves; after that you may go on, since you have visited your servant.” And they said, “So do, as you have said.””

II. What behavior IS NOT wise and understanding?

A. The symptoms of bad people skills: v14 *But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth.*

1. **Being dominated by coveting** – *you have bitter jealousy*
2. **Followed by selfish motives** - *selfish ambition in your heart*

B. Remedy for halting unrighteous people skills – v14b *...do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth.*

1. **Repent of arrogance** – *do not be arrogant*
2. **Repent of justifying this attitude** – *lie against the truth*

C. The truth is that selfish ambition is a bankrupt wisdom - v15 *This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.*

1. **It is earthly** – in that it is limited and bound to the material world of time and space.
2. **It is natural** – in that focused on indulging the flesh.
3. **It is demonic** – in that it contradicts God.

III. God’s Imbued wisdom has an abundance of people-loving characteristics. - v17 *“But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”*

A. The cycle of Godly wisdom is continually perpetuated.

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