

“GOT WISDOM?” WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT ISN’T

(James 3:13-16)

I. SPEECH AND DIVINE WISDOM (3:1-12)

II. IMPLEMENTING DIVINE WISDOM (3:13-18)

A. The Challenge to the Wise to Demonstrate His Wisdom (3:13)

1. The challenge by James for the believer who claims to be “*wise*” is that he should effectively demonstrate his “*understanding*” in his _____ and _____ which true wisdom produces (v. 13a)

2. The work that shows others that true _____ wisdom has been _____ is when things are done “*in meekness of wisdom*”. (v. 13b)

* What does it mean to be meek? Does it mean you are to be a “doormat”?

B. The Evidence of False Wisdom in Control (3:14-16)

1. The antithesis of meekness is bitter _____ and _____, they are certainly not the fruits of faith. (v. 14a)

2. To boast about wisdom when one is displaying jealousy and selfish ambition is, in effect, to bluntly _____ about the truth— that _____ must be associated with _____. (v. 14b)

* Is carnal self-promotion under the guise of spiritual zeal really a problem today?

3. James makes the distinction that there is a wisdom that is NOT from the Lord above, and he describes it in three ways (v. 15)...

a. “*earthly*” (Eph. 2:2a), the _____

b. “*sensual*” (Eph. 2:3), the _____

c. “*demonic*” (Eph. 2:2b), from _____

4. James pronounces his harsh verdict on human (pseudo) wisdom by describing the negative effects it produces (v. 16)...

a. It shows itself in “_____”.

b. It shows itself in “_____ *thing*”.

5. When confusion and evil reign in a local church—_____, factions, and _____ will inevitably break out to the _____ of the Lord. (Prov. 9:10; Gal. 5:15, 26)

6. It is sad when believers pursue their own ambitions or partisan causes rather than the _____ of the _____ as a whole.

* How can you personally apply this truth today?