

Two Spheres of Wisdom

Request: “I have heard you teach that there are two ONLY two spheres of wisdom in the world and that all our thinking is influenced by these two spheres. Could you refer me to a passage of Scripture that I could show to others?”

James 3:13-18 is such a passage of Scriptures. We will study it by the following four homiletical points.

- **Challenge** (13a) – note the rhetorical question
- **Conduct** (13b) – note the command (deiknumi/ a.a.impv.3ps)
- **Contrast** (14-17) – note the 1cc (if and its true); two commands of stop! (katakauchomai/ p.m.impv.2pl/me) and (pseudomai/ p.m.impv.2pl/me); Sophia from below and above; 8 characteristics of both spheres
- **Conclusion** (18) – note the result of the production of divine wisdom in the CWL

1. The rhetorical question offers a challenged to spiritually advancing believers (13).

James is challenging spiritually advancing believers to step up to the plate – “*who* is wise (sophos) and understanding (epistami/ p.m.ptc nsm) among (en+loc) you?”

- **Sophos** is advanced categorical bible doctrine (101, 202, 301).
- **Epistami (to know well)** is the student of advanced CBD who understands its practicality well enough to teach it to others.

Sophos and epistami are referring to believers who are mastering the subject well enough to teach others its practical truths (Heb.5:12-14; Eph.5:15-17; Col.4:5-6).

2. The challenge is directed to the conduct of the CWL of the spiritually advancing believer as described in point one (13b).

“Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.”

The Greek word for show is deiknumi (a.a.impv.3ps/ command to put on display SOPHOS and EPISTAMI in everyday CWL).

This is referred to as living an honorable manner of Christian life (tes kalos anastrophe).

What will he show or put on public display? “His deeds (tes ergon/ divine production) in (en+inst.of means) the gentleness (prautes/meekness/ grace orientation in CWL) of wisdom (sophia/ practical application of CBD).”

Remember that **show** is a COMMAND and not a request or a suggestion.

3. In 3:14-17, James revealed the hindrance to believers reaching and maintaining spiritual maturity in devil's world. He called it EARTHLY WISDOM as opposed to FROM ABOVE (another).

Earthly wisdom is old man, Cosmos Diabolicus thinking (Eph.4: 22-24). Its source is the devil rather than God (1 John 5:19; 2 Cor.4:3-4; Matt.16:21-23). It opposes God's revealed will.

James says that all readers of his book that have old man, Cosmos Diabolicus thinking can identify it by the following eight characteristics (1cc and if its true; Phil.3: 19; 1 Tim.4: 1, 16).

Bitter jealousy	arrogant	earthly	demonic
Selfish ambition	lying against truth	soulish	disorder & evil

There are two negative commands – stop boasting and lying against the truth! (3:14)

Wisdom from above is Divine Viewpoint of new man thinking. Its source is God and comes from the Holy Scriptures (James 3:17; 2Tim.2: 14-16; 3:16). James contrasts old man, Cosmos Diabolicus thinking with new man, Divine Viewpoint thinking using the following eight characteristics.

Pure	gentle	full of mercy	unwavering
Peaceful	reasonable	good fruits	without hypocrisy

4. James concluded with describing the divine production of new man, Divine Viewpoint thinking calling it (wisdom from above) in Christian Way of Life. (3:18)

“And the seed, whose fruit (karpos) is righteousness (diakaiosune) is sown (speiro/ p.p.ind) in (en + inst of manner) peace (eirene) by those who make (tois poieo/ p.a.ptc inst.pl.m) peace.”

Note how many of the characteristics of old man, Cosmos Diabolicus thinking are replaced with peace that comes from new man, Divine Viewpoint thinking.

“Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.” (NIV)

“And the harvest of righteousness (of conformity to God's will in thought and deed) is [the fruit of the seed] sown in peace by those who work for and make peace [in themselves and in others, that peace which means concord, agreement, and harmony between individuals, with undisturbedness, in a peaceful mind free from fears and agitating passions and moral conflicts].” (Amplified)