



James 3:13-18

Assessing Wisdom

The beneficial
qualities in contrast
to harmful qualities

(Part 2)

The fruit of
considerate
wisdom (3:13)

*¹³ Who is wise and understanding among
you? By his good conduct let him show his
works in the meekness of wisdom.*

The fruit of
arrogant self-
centeredness
(3:14-15)

¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

The fruit of comparative condemnation (3:16)

“For where jealousy and selfish ambition exists,”

- Jealousy and selfish ambition will lead self-centered people to be double-minded.
- Comparative condemnation is a divisive disorder rooted in a selfish idolatrous heart.
 - When professing followers of Jesus make much of themselves rather than Jesus, adoration is not centered on the Lord.
 - Philippians 3:3
- The self-deception that self-centeredness produces is so strong that it convinces those causing disorder, for selfish reasons, that they are right

The fruit of comparative condemnation (3:16)

“there will be disorder and every vile practice.

- Other forms of the word translated “*disorder*” were used earlier by James to describe a doubleminded person and a double-speaking tongue.
 - James 1:7–8
 - James 3:7–8
- Duplicity causes interference with Christ-centered motives and ministries in the church.
- Double-mindedness is a slippery slope toward all types of selfishness and sin (“*every vile practice*”).

The fruit of constructive concern (3:17-18)

“But the wisdom from above is first pure”

- *wisdom from above* - perception and conduct coming from God
- Saying purity is *“first”* means that purity, of necessity, leads the other qualities.
- *“Pure”* - single-minded attention
- Hearts captivated and passionate about Jesus are pure hearts.
 - Matthew 5:8

The fruit of constructive concern (3:17-18)

- “*then peaceable*” – free from worry, blessed by God and resting in Him
- A person at peace is one who rests in the sovereign hand of God.
 - Isaiah 26:3
- Being peaceable is not the avoidance of truth, but the manner or atmosphere of truth.
- Peaceable followers of Jesus are learning to rely on the power and presence of Jesus to speak the truth in love.

The fruit of constructive concern (3:17-18)

- “*gentle*” – calm, considerate, concerned about others
- Resting confidently in Jesus brings calmness and the ability to show kindness and concern for others, even others who are not favorable toward us.
 - 2 Timothy 2:24–26
- Gentleness does not mean weakness, but meekness, which can be described as strength under control.
- Philippians 2:3–4

The fruit of constructive concern (3:17-18)

“open to reason” – open to persuasion, submissive

- Being open to reason puts a teachable spirit on display.
- Such a heart is open to God-given wisdom flowing from anyone, small or great from a worldly perspective.
- One who is open to reasons recognizes they are never too enlightened or too old to learn.

The fruit of constructive concern (3:17-18)

“full of mercy and good fruits”

- *“full of mercy”* - to see the misery sin and selfishness causes and to respond with compassion and concern rather than condemnation
- *“good fruits”* - the benefits of grace from which others are blessed and benefited
- *“impartial”* – not prejudiced, consistent, unwavering
 - To be partial is to hold a fluctuating standard.
 - The impartial know that the blessing of the way of truth applies equally to all.
- *“sincere”* – genuine, without hypocrisy
 - There is no covering up of selfish motives.
 - There is not one standard for self and another standard for others.

The fruit of constructive concern (3:17-18)

“¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness”

- Every Christ-centered and others-oriented person desires a harvest of righteousness.
- This means reverent actions of obedience for God and loving acts of mercy toward others.

“is sown in peace”

- The seeds of truth and righteousness are shared from a heart resting in the work of Jesus.
- The focus of righteous hearts is not division or one-upmanship, but edification and unity.
 - Romans 14:17–19

“by those who make peace.”

- Something we should work hard at is making peace.
 - Matthew 5:9

Questions to Consider

- What fruit of comparative condemnation do you need the Lord to purge from your life?
- How conscious are you of Jesus as matter of worship and life?
- What are the ways you need Jesus to purify your heart?
- How are you showing constructive concern for others?
- In what ways do you need to Lord to help you to be a peacemaker?



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