

# Two Kinds of Wisdom



James 3:13-18

# Introduction:

- **Sophos**—A technical term for the teacher
- **By contrast**, the Greek philosophical term meant theoretical wisdom.
- **Wise and understanding** relates to the teacher.



# Characteristics of “Earthly” Wisdom

- *Envy*
- *selfish ambition*
- *Earthly*
- *Unspiritual*
- *Demonic*



# Characteristics of “Heavenly” Wisdom

- *Pure*
- *Peace-loving*
- *Considerate/reasonable*
- *Submissive*



# Consequences of “Earthly” Wisdom

- There you find **disorder**  
—disturbance, trouble, instability
- There you find **every evil practice**  
—every bad thing!



# Characteristics of “Heavenly” Wisdom

- *Full of mercy*
- *Full of good fruit*
- *Impartial*
- *Sincere*



# Conclusion

- Teachers need to be consistent in their speaking.
- Teachers need to operate out of a “heavenly” wisdom, and not an “earthly” wisdom.
- Note the **extreme contrasts** between the two kinds of wisdom identified by James.



# Question

10. List the characteristics of two kinds of wisdom described by James. (vs. 15-18)

## Heavenly Wisdom

- a. Meekness
- b. Pure
- c. Peaceable
- d. Gentle
- e. Willing to yield
- f. Mercy
- g. Good fruits
- h. Without partiality
- i. Without hypocrisy

## Earthly Wisdom

- a. Earthly
- b. Sensual
- c. Demonic
- d. Bitter envy
- e. Self-seeking
- f. Confusion
- g. Every evil thing

