

"Who among you is wise and understanding? By his good conduct he should show that his works are done in the gentleness that comes from wisdom." (James 3:13) JAMES

The <u>demeanor</u> in which our "good conduct" is carried out is just as (if not more) significant than the <u>results</u> of our conduct.

"The gentleness that comes from wisdom"

- Greek prautēs
- Gentleness, meekness, humility

"The gentleness that comes from wisdom"

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- "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

 (Jesus, in Matthew 11:29)

 JAMES

"But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your heart, don't boast and deny the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic." (James 3:14-15) JAMES

"For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there is disorder and every evil practice." (James 3:16)



"This kind of envy seeks the best for oneself, regardless of what might be good for another person, always wishing for others to have less than oneself... In a group setting, 'bitter jealousy' may manifest 'a fierce desire to promote one's own opinion to the exclusion JAMES of those of others."

Wisdom from below derives its logic and resources from the world, the flesh, and the devil, and produces bitter zeal and contentious self-seeking.

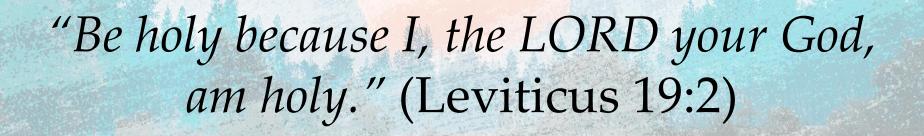
"But the wisdom from above is first PURE, then peace-loving, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without pretense. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who cultivate

JAMES peace."(James 3:17-18)

James is not simply seeking to describe heavenly wisdom. He articulates for us what the wisdom from above will produce in the lives of those who embrace it. JAMES

"[God's wisdom at work in us] must show itself as pure, unmixed with anything worldly or demonic. It remains singularly focused on God, without any tugs of loyalty elsewhere."

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"Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish." JAMES

(Ephesians 5:25-27)

"And everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself just as he is pure."

(1 John 3:3)

"But the wisdom from above is first pure, then PEACE-LOVING, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without pretense. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who cultivate

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"But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peace-loving, GENTLE, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without pretense. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who cultivate

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"But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peace-loving, gentle, COMPLIANT, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without pretense. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who cultivate

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"But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peace-loving, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, UNWAVERING, WITHOUT PRETENSE. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who cultivate peace." JAMES (James 3:17-18)

Looking back over this list of qualities, if you could see your conduct and demeanor grow in just one area, which would you choose?

Wisdom from above derives its logic and resources from the Father, Son, and Spirit, and produces within and without purity and peace.

