

James 3:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

Analysis

Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. Who is wise (sophos, σοφός) and understanding? Let him show (deixatō, δειξάτω) his works in meekness (prautēti, πραύτητι) of wisdom. True wisdom is demonstrated through humble conduct, not mere rhetoric.

Reformed spirituality values wisdom displayed in sanctified living. Meekness, a Spirit fruit, proves authenticity. James transitions from tongue to wisdom, linking speech to lifestyle.

Historical Context

Jewish teachers prized wisdom status; some boasted of insight while sowing division. James appeals to Old Testament wisdom tradition where character validates claims. Paul's emphasis on meekness (2 Corinthians 10:1) aligns with this ethic.",

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do you typically display or boast of wisdom?
2. What meek actions could manifest true wisdom this week?
3. Who models meek wisdom for you to imitate?

Interlinear Text

Τίς	σοφὸς	καὶ	ἐπιστήμων	ἐν	ὑμῖν	δειξάτω	
Who	is a wise man	and	endued with knowledge	among	you	let him shew	
G5101	G4680	G2532	G1990	G1722	G5213	G1166	
ἐκ	τῆς	καλῆς	ἀναστροφῆς	τὰ	ἔργα	αὐτοῦ	ἐν
out of	G3588	a good	conversation	G3588	works	G846	among
G1537		G2570	G391		G2041		G1722
πρᾳτήτη	σοφίας						
meekness	of wisdom						
G4240	G4678						

Additional Cross-References

Galatians 5:23 (Parallel theme): Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

James 3:17 (Good): But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

Matthew 5:5 (Parallel theme): Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Colossians 3:12 (Parallel theme): Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

1 Peter 2:12 (Good): Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Titus 3:2 (Parallel theme): To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.

2 Timothy 2:25 (Parallel theme): In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

Philippians 1:27 (Parallel theme): Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

1 Timothy 6:11 (Parallel theme): But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

James 2:18 (Parallel theme): Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.