

James 3:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

Analysis

This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. Such wisdom does not descend from above but is earthly (epigeios, ἐπίγειος), unspiritual (psychikē, ψυχική), demonic (daimoniōdēs, δαιμονιώδης). James categorizes pseudo-wisdom's origin: worldly, fleshly, devilish.

Reformed worldview differentiates wisdom from above (rooted in Christ) and worldly wisdom. Envy-driven strategies align with demonic schemes, not gospel humility.

Historical Context

Hellenistic cities prized rhetoric and sophistry; James warns believers not to import competitive philosophies. Paul's contrast between earthly wisdom and the cross (1 Corinthians 1) mirrors this teaching.",

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What 'wisdom' have you embraced that may be worldly?
2. How can you evaluate counsel based on its fruit and origin?
3. Where do you need to renounce demonic patterns of leadership?

Interlinear Text

οὐκ	ἔστιν	αὕτη	ἡ	σοφία	ἄνωθεν	κατερχομένη	ἀλλ'
not	descendeth	This	G3588	wisdom	from above	G2718	but
G3756	G2076	G3778		G4678	G509		G235
ἐπίγειος	ψυχική	δαιμονιώδης					
is earthly	sensual	devilish					
G1919	G5591	G1141					

Additional Cross-References

James 3:17 (Parallel theme): 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.

1 Corinthians 3:19 (Parallel theme): For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

James 1:17 (Parallel theme): Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

1 Corinthians 2:14 (Parallel theme): But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Philippians 3:19 (Parallel theme): Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

2 Corinthians 1:12 (Parallel theme): For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by

the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.

1 Timothy 4:1 (Evil): Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

James 1:5 (Parallel theme): If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

Jeremiah 4:22 (Evil): For my people is foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish children, and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge.

1 Corinthians 3:3 (Parallel theme): For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?