

James 3:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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. Wisdom from above is first pure (hagnē, ἀγνή), then peaceable (eirēnikē, εἰρηνική), gentle (epieikēs, ἐπιεικής), open to reason (eupeithēs, εὐπειθής), full of mercy and good fruits, impartial (adiakritos, ἀδιάκριτος), and sincere (anypokritos, ἀνυπόκριτος). James offers a checklist of heavenly wisdom's fruit.

Reformed believers view Christ as embodiment of this wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:30). The list informs spiritual formation and leadership evaluation.

Historical Context

Jewish wisdom literature described virtues similar to these; James reinterprets them Christologically. Diaspora churches needed positive vision after negative warnings. Paul's description of Spirit fruit parallels this list.",

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. Which attribute of heavenly wisdom do you most lack?
2. How can your community cultivate these qualities together?
3. How might this checklist inform leadership selection?

Interlinear Text

ἡ δὲ ἀνωθεν σοφία πρῶτον μὲν ἀγνή ἐστιν
G3588 But that is from above the wisdom first pure G53 is
G1161 G509 G4678 G4412 G3303 G2076

ἔπειτα εἰρηνική ἐπιεικής εὔπειθής μεστὴ ἐλέους
then peaceable gentle and easy to be intreated full of mercy
G1899 G1516 G1933 G2138 G3324 G1656

καὶ καρπῶν ἀγαθῶν ἀδιάκριτος καὶ ἀνυπόκριτος
and fruits good without partiality and without hypocrisy
G2532 G2590 G18 G87 G2532 G505

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 2:6 (Parallel theme): For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

Romans 12:9 (Good): Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

James 3:15 (Parallel theme): This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

James 1:17 (Good): 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.

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.

1 John 3:18 (Parallel theme): My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

1 Peter 1:22 (Parallel theme): Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

Luke 21:15 (Parallel theme): For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.

1 John 3:3 (Parallel theme): And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Matthew 5:8 (Parallel theme): Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org