

# Proverbs 11:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbour: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace.

## Analysis

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He that is void of wisdom despises his neighbor, but a man of understanding holds his peace. Lacking wisdom produces contempt toward neighbors - foolish persons disparage others. The understanding person remains silent rather than expressing contempt. This verse connects wisdom with charity - genuine understanding produces patience with others' faults. Contempt reveals both intellectual and moral deficiency.

## Historical Context

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Covenant community ethics required loving neighbors (Lev 19:18). Despising neighbors violated this command, revealing lack of true wisdom rooted in fear of God.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. What contempt toward others reveals lack of wisdom in your life?
2. How can you practice wise silence rather than expressing disparaging opinions?

## Interlinear Text

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תִּבְזֹבֵב וְתִּזְבֹּב  
לְרֹעֵהוּ בְּזַבְזַב  
בָּזָבָז  
מִסְרָר  
לְבָזָב  
וְאַזְבָּז  
תִּזְבֹּב וְתִּזְבֹּב  
despiseth his neighbour He that is void of wisdom but a man of understanding  
H936 H7453 H2638 H3820 H376 H8394

יְמִרְישָׁ:

holdeth his peace

H2790

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 10:19** (Parallel theme): In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.

**1 Peter 2:23** (Parallel theme): Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

**Luke 16:14** (Parallel theme): And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him.

**Luke 18:9** (Parallel theme): And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:

**Proverbs 14:21** (Parallel theme): He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he.