



## A CASE FOR PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY

with Pastor Max Frazier

*"Wisdom: The Earthly vs. the Heavenly"*

*James 3:13-18*

### AN INTRODUCTION

"Any fool can know. The point is to understand" – Albert Einstein

The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than a society gathers wisdom" – Isaac Asimov

"By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest, second by imitation, which is easiest, and third by experience, which is bitterest" - Confucius

### EARTHLY WISDOM AND ITS RESULTS

*James 3:14-16*

The motivation behind earthly wisdom is bitter envy and selfish ambition.

A bitter spirit is one that is divisive.

Earthly wisdom is motivated by a divisive spirit that cannot accept what someone else has, but seeks to destroy it.

Bitter envy destroys relationships.

Another motivator is selfish ambition. The Greek word denotes an "extreme selfishness."

Earthly wisdom depicts a person who ruthlessly lives for himself.

Earthly wisdom illustrated in the life of Chuck Colson.

Where does earthly wisdom come from?

1. It is earthly

- It has no time for God.

- It is based upon what a person can know and experience here on this earth.

- It is limited by time and space.

- It seeks immediate gratification.

- It is doing "life, my way."

2. It is unspiritual; natural

- First Corinthians 2:14

3. It is of the devil; demonic

- This is the origin of all wisdom that is not of God.

- Ezekiel 28:13-17

Earthly wisdom is found in the messages of those who "water down" the Word of God – *Second Timothy 4:3-4*

## THE FRUITS OF HEAVENLY WISDOM

*James 3:13, 17-18*

1. It is pure – Greek word denotes something that is free from contamination and defilement.

- It is a wisdom so cleansed of self that it has become pure enough to see God

– Matthew 5:8, First John 3:2-3

2. It is peace-loving. The word denotes a “right relationship between man and man, and between man and God.”

- They are not easily provoked into controversy with others – *Philippians 2:1-4*

3. It is considerate or gentle.

- It does not insist on standing on its own rights.

4. It is submissive or reasonable.

- Has a teachable spirit; is willing to learn from the experiences of others.

5. It is full of mercy.

- Quick to forgive others without holding grudges – *Matthew 5:7*

6. It is full of good fruit

- Galatians 5:22-23

7. It is impartial. Greek word means “Not parted or divided; hence without uncertainty, indecision, inconsistency, vacillation or doubtfulness”

- It is not politically correct.

- It takes a firm stand on one’s convictions.

8. It is sincere, without hypocrisy.

- There is a genuineness.

### A CHALLENGE

Proverbs 4:7

What the world needs now is for godly people to demonstrate godly actions based upon the possession of godly wisdom.

For too long, the Church has adopted the practices that the world describes as “successful.”

It is time to pursue a wisdom that has its anchor in the character of a living, holy, awesome God.



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