

**James 3:13-15**  
Foolish "Wisdom"

*Residual depravity ...*

- I. Character
  - A. Wise
  - B. Unwise
- II. Corruption
  - A. Sin & Sins
  - B. Sources
- III. Consequences
  - A. Division
  - B. Destruction
- IV. Correction
  - A. Recognition
  - B. Repentance

*... divine remedy.*

**Children, Listen ...**

1. Why is sin always foolish?
2. When a wise person sins, what will they do?
3. Who is the only perfectly wise person to walk the earth?

**Character & Conduct**

James does not shrink back from calling sin, sin and warning against the grave consequences of allowing it to fester. In the opening verse of our passage, he asks a probing question that connects wisdom with character and behavior. Before he gets to the positive attributes of wise, Christ like character he homes in on indwelling character sins that rise from troublesome sources and their consequences. While the sins he uses as examples may be acceptable in some circles, they are generally odious even in the unregenerate world. But Christians cannot tolerate indwelling corruption and sin patterns in life as they are not only unwise, they are offensive to God and damaging to others. When we recognize things like bitter jealousy and selfish ambition, we must deal with them head on: they are worldly, godless and devilish traits that have no place in the saint's life. As is true with the discovery of any sin, we must repent and seek the help of the Lord to change. If we are truly willing, he will help to transform our often-foolish character and sinful behavior to reflect more and more the wise character of Christ and instill in us a desire to live lives of obedience to His will. Who among us is wise? Our character and conduct will answer for us.