A. The Real Deal (vs. 13):

1. **What is wisdom?**:
   a) It comes directly from heaven (1:5).
   b) It is a skilful practical application of the knowledge of God into real life situations.

2. **What is understanding?** It is balancing Biblical knowledge when in particular situations for effective application (Colossians 1:9-12).

3. If a person has wisdom and understanding this is what we know:
   a) **Let him show** – The believers behavior represents who they are inwardly. It is a natural outgrowth of the spiritual maturity.
   b) **Good behavior** – Good behavior, under these circumstances takes place as a result of the Holy Spirit powerfully transforming a believer’s life as they skillfully apply God’s Word practically (Hebrews 5:11-14).
   c) **Deeds, work** – What this believer does causes other believers to grow spiritually.
   d) **Gentleness of wisdom** – This is a believer who in the midst of trials does not become contentious or vengeful with God or people but focuses their energy on submitting to the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they skillfully apply God’s Word practically to what they are experiencing.

B. All Talk (vs. 14-16):

1. A believer could be the best teacher (James 3:1) and seems to be a great example in the church, but if their behavior represents these characteristics they may have knowledge (1 Corinthians 8:1) but not wisdom. Here is a list of characteristics that portrays their true nature even though they are a believer:

   a) **Bitter jealousy** - Instead of gentleness of wisdom the believer has a resentful fierce desire to promote their opinion no matter if it creates contention, upset others or even if it leads to trouble or war in the family or among in the church.
   b) **Selfish ambition** – Bitter jealous can lead to a believer seeking to do
whatever it takes to gather other people to their side in order to promote their ideas in a more powerful manner so that they can elevate themselves in the midst of controversy.

c) **In your heart** – ‘In your heart’ speaks to the believer’s bitter jealously and selfish ambition passionately coming from inside of them with the complete desire to fulfill what they feel (James 1:13-16; Mark 7:14-23). It is like a spring inside of them that is gushing out.

d) **Do not be arrogant** - James commands them to stop being boastful while despising what is clearly before their eyes.

e) **And lie against the truth** - This believer is commanded to stop behaving like a false prophet; purposefully denying the will of God while pretending to be a sincere believer.

f) **Wisdom is not from above** – No one can claim that the believer described in verse 14 is spiritually led.

g) **It is earthly** – The wisdom the person claims to have is manmade and therefore, it is not wisdom at all. It is empty, temporal having no eternal benefit and therefore useless. It has no long-term benefit to anyone around them or themselves.

h) **Natural** – Natural relates to what is our normal human instincts or logical way of thinking. A believer resorting to this way of thinking takes place when there is bitter jealously and selfish ambition.

i) **Demonic** – When a believer persists with bitter jealously and selfish ambition they are acting in the same manner as demons as James describes in James 2:18-20 and Christ in Matthew 16:23.

2. The believer's behavior creates these results in the church:

a) **Where bitter jealousy** – When a believer has a resentful fierce desire to promote their opinion no matter what contention creates there is going to chaos.

b) **Selfish ambition** – When a believer is contentious, viciously seeking attention at all cost to prove their ideas it creates dysfunctional circumstances.

c) **There is disorder** - Bitter jealous and selfish ambition can lead to confusion, anarchy and violent behavior that can even become mob like. There is absolutely disrespect for order.

d) **Every form of evil** – When believers deny the faith and turn to their own feelings, passions and opinions they can behave like demons willfully despising the truth.

**C. Be for Real (vs. 17-18):**

1. **Wisdom from above** – Wisdom that is from above is the application of God’s Word, influenced by the Holy Spirit, as a believer seeks to practically apply the Word to real life circumstances (Hebrews 4:11-15). So, what does this wisdom look like in the life of a believer:
a) **Is pure** – Wisdom from above does not have any of the characteristics of verse 14-15.

b) **Is pure** – Wisdom from above is Spirit led so it is holy in the sight of God (without blemish).

c) **Then peaceable** – Wisdom from above does not create the dysfunction that bitter jealous and selfish ambition creates.

d) **Then peaceable** – Living wise produces fruit of the Holy Spirit because this comes from God (James 1:5-6).

e) **Gentle** - Gentleness is a believer who faithfully trust God even if it means they have to endure suffering. This believer’s endurance is done without becoming bitter and malicious.

f) **Reasonable** – A believer who has Godly wisdom is willing to listen and is compliant when the practical application of God’s Word creates a variety of opinions.

g) **Mercy** – Godly wisdom causes a believer to extend forgiveness rather than seek vengeance against those who are wrong or have wronged the believer.

h) **Good fruits** – The spiritual characteristics that proceed from a believer with Godly wisdom demonstrates the transformation nature of the Holy Spirit in them so that their lives please God and blesses those around them.

i) **Unwavering** – Spiritual wisdom develops a believer who is deeply committed to God’s Word, applying it without prejudice, with unshakable commitment to obey His Word.

j) **Without hypocrisy** - All that a wise believer does is portrayed out of a genuine commitment to God’s Word directed by the Holy Spirit.

k) **Fruit is righteousness** – A believer who has wisdom from above demonstrates a life that is in consistently in conformity to God’s standards driven by their commitment to trust God no matter how difficult the circumstances.

l) **Sown in peace** – However, wisdom has been scattered in whatever Situation; the focus can never be to create strife or distress for anyone.

m) **Those who make peace** – ‘The seed whose fruit is righteousness’ is scattered through varying circumstances directed by a purpose of not doing anything to create strife or distress for those involved in the particular issue. This focus leads to different activities that stimulate peace. **The Spirit of God is our peace (John 14:27). A believer who is truly wise is a believer who is controlled and directed by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:15-18).**