

The Book of Proverbs #4

The Wise Man and Relationships

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I. THE IMPORTANCE OF WISE RELATIONSHIPS.

A. Bad company corrupts good morals (1 Corinthians 15:33).

B. The kind of relationships to avoid in Proverbs---

1. Enticing sinners.

Prov. 1:10---*My son, if sinners entice you, do not give in to them.*

a. The word “sinners” is reserved in Scripture to describe unbelievers who endeavor to persuade even believers to sin with them (see James 4:8).

b. They will seek to entice by peer pressure. Note the plural pronouns---them (v.10); “Come along with us” (v.11); Let us (v.11-12). The intimidating force of peer pressure is often the way to entice those who lack wisdom.

Prov. 1:12---*Let's swallow them alive, like the grave, and whole, like those who go down to the pit.*

a. The wicked devise a plot of deception in which the innocent are captured and victimized like one who is taken by death itself (examples: Joseph in Gen. 37:20, Jeremiah in Jer. 38:6-13, Daniel in Dan. 6:16-17)

Prov. 1:13---*We will get all sorts of valuable things and fill our houses with plunder.*

a. This is the enticing of the innocent by tempting them with reward. Outright robbery is made to appear easy and safe by the thieves.

Prov. 1:15---*My son, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their paths.*

a. This directly confronts the invitation of verse 11. Sin must be rejected at the first temptation. It

must not be dabbled in or entertained in the least. We are to stay as far away from sin and enticing sinners as possible.

Prov. 29:24---*The accomplice of a thief is his own enemy; he is put under oath and dare not testify.*

a. When you hang around evil people you are going to run into the problem of guilt by association. It is inevitable they will commit sin and you will be tainted by your association with them. You are harming yourself by being around them.

2. Flirtatious and/or sexually promiscuous women (or men).

Prov. 2:16---*It [wisdom] will save you also from the adulteress, from the wayward wife with her seductive words, 17 who has left the partner of her youth and ignored the covenant she made before God.*

a. This person is a covenant breaker. She/he has no respect for God's moral laws. She/he is only interested in a good time and will seek to convince others with smooth talk to party along with her.

Prov. 2:19---*None who go with her return or attain the paths of life.*

a. Sexual immorality is a sin in which you lose something you can never fully regain. God will forgive and a pure pattern can be reestablished, but virginity and innocence are gone forever.

Prov. 5:8---*Keep to a path far from her [the adulteress], do not go near the door of her house.*

a. Again, the answer is to stay as far away from such situations as possible. Note the following warning to the fool:

Prov. 6:27-28---27 *Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned? 28 Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched?*

a. Dabbling in flirtatious behavior is like playing with fire. You WILL get burned.

3. The simple, the mocker, and the fool.

Prov. 1:22---*How long will you simple ones love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge?*

- a. The simple are those who are naïve and ignorant.
- b. Mockers or scorners are those who commit more serious deliberate acts.
- c. Fools or obstinate unbelievers are those who will not listen to truth.
- d. Proverbs aims its wisdom primarily at the first group.

Prov. 1:32---*For the waywardness of the simple will kill them...*

- a. The ignorant without knowledge will tend to be easily led astray. This is why the learning of truth and gaining of wisdom is so essential.

Prov. 9:7---*Whoever corrects a mocker invites insult; whoever rebukes a wicked man incurs abuse.*

- a. The mocker is arrogant and his pride will not accept being told he is wrong. The wise man, on the other hand, appreciates rebuke and advice.

Prov. 18:2---*A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions.*

- a. The fool is not teachable, but is impressed with himself and his own folly.

4. The angry man/woman:

Prov. 21:19---*Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife.*

- a. DO NOT marry someone who cannot control their emotions. You will be miserable!

Prov. 22:24-25---24 *Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily*

angered, 25 or you may learn his ways, and get yourself ensnared.

- a. If you hang around hot-tempered people one of two things will tend to happen. (1) You will get sick of it and stop being friends with them. (2) You will begin to pick up their belligerent attitude yourself.

Prov. 29:22---*An angry man stirs up dissension, and a hot-tempered one commits many sins.*

- a. An angry man is hard to get along with. He is always stirring up trouble. Be friends with him and you will always be around much turmoil. You may have trouble finding other friends, because of your association with him. He is not well-liked. He is avoided by others.

5. Co-signing and guaranteeing other's loans:

Prov. 22:26-27---26 *Do not be a man who strikes hands in pledge or puts up security for debts; 27 If you lack the means to pay, your very bed will be snatched from under you.*

Prov. 11:15---*He who puts up security for another will surely suffer, but whoever refuses to strike hands in pledge is safe.*

- a. If you guarantee loans, you must assume that you will end up paying it and have the means to do so. Loans guaranteed should be treated in your finances as money that you are able to lose. You are putting yourself at risk. If you can't afford to lose the money, don't do it.

6. Friendship with a gossip:

Prov. 17:4---*A wicked man listens to evil lips; a liar pays attention to a malicious tongue.*

Prov. 16:28---*A perverse man stirs up dissension and a gossip separates close friends.*

- a. To either gossip or listen to gossip takes a wicked

heart. If a friend is a gossip, he/she ought to be rebuked. If we are friends with a gossip, we either confront their sin or we listen to their gossip. There is no middle ground. We are either a part of the solution or a part of the problem.