

Topics in Proverbs

I. Skill in Godly Relationships - Pt 2

A. The Importance of Relationships

B. Caution Against Excess

C. What to Seek and Cherish in Friends

1. Principles provided by God

a. Red lights, green lights

b. Proverbs praises some characteristics and condemns others

2. Wisdom - Pro 13:20 He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed.

a. Introductory: Types of relationship

i. Give relationships - you have more to offer to your friend than he has to offer to you

ii. Take relationships - you gain more from your friend than He does from you - love is not the primary motive

iii. Give and Take relationships - a level friendship where we need great discernment b/c of the possibility of greater intimacy, openness, and trust.

b. The Principle

i. we become like those whom we like

ii. Be friends with one applying wisdom, we benefit from their example

iii. Be friends with one walking contrary to God, we have a negative impact on our personal walk

iv. Supporting scripture and examples

- Ps 1:1 the man is depicted by what he does not do

- Failure at this point affected Solomon b/c of his wives, Rehoboam b/c of his foolish friends, Jehoshaphat b/c of Ahab

c. The Proof

i. If I become more like my friend, will I

- love the Lord more deeply or less so?

- know Him better or more feebly?

-be more useful to the Lord or less useful?

ii. If the answer is more love, deeper knowledge, greater usefulness, this is a friend to make and imitate.

iii. If the answer is negative, this is a yellow if not red light

3. Loyalty

a. The Problem - Pr 20:6 Most men will proclaim each his own goodness, But who can find a faithful man?

i. Talk is easy and cheap - consider politics

ii. Scriptural examples - Ps 12:1; Pr 25:14; Mic 7:2; Mt 6:2; Lu 18:8; Jd 12

b. The Quality - Pr 17:17 A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.

- i. good news and bad news scenario
 - The good news - a friend worthy of the name is born for bad weather
 - The bad news - you normally don't know if one is this type of friend until the bad weather comes, might be too late.
- ii. The brother born for adversity is Solomon's example of a true friend who welcomes the rough times
- c. Candor - the quality of being open and honest in expression; frankness.
 - i. Pr 14:5 A faithful witness does not lie, But a false witness will utter lies.
 - A friend doesn't tell you what you want to hear
 - A friend tells you what is true, what you need to hear
 - ii. Pr 27:5 Open rebuke is better Than love carefully concealed. Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.
 - the one who will take the risk to tell you what is true, what you need to hear is likely to be a true friend
 - if we want true friends to help us be God's person, we need to make it easy for them
 - Solomon gives us more in Pr 9:9
 - Solomon learned from David - Ps 141:5

D. What to Beware and Avoid

1. Foolishness - Pro 13:20; 14:7

- a. The Precept
 - i. Pr 13:20 He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of *fools* will be destroyed.
 - ii. Pr 14:7 Go from the presence of a *foolish* man, When you do not perceive in him the lips of knowledge.
 - iii. *k@ciyl* - fat, stupid or silly:--fool(-ish).
- b. The Problem: How do you tell a fool?
 - i. first identifier - no fear of the Lord - Pr 1:7; 3:5-7
 - ii. Second - they are comfortable in their foolishness - Pr 1:22,32
 - iii. In the NT, Paul warns of the same kind of people
 - Doesn't submit to biblical teaching - 2 Th 3:14-15
 - Advocates false teaching - 1 Ti 6:3-5
 - stay away from him - Ro 16:17

2. Hot Temper

- a. repetitive warning - Pr 16:29; 19:19; 22:24-25
 - i. culture affects us - popularity of violent revenge type films
 - ii. shows a lack of trust in God - Pr 20:22; of understanding of God's way to deal with enemies - Ex 23:4-5
 - iii. Not an admirable example - Pr 14:29; 15:18; 16:32; 19:11; 25:28; Jas 1:19
- b. Patience / self-control are godly virtues - Ex 34:6; Ps 103:8; Joel 2:13; Jon 4:2; Nah 1:3

3. Mouth Problems

a. Gossip and Slander

- i. among the seven things that God hates - Pr 6:16-19
 - 3 of 4 are mouth sins
 - slander is a sub-category of Lying
 - In violation of the Word of God - Ex 23:1; Le 19:16; Ps 15:3; Eph 4:31; Col 3:8
 - The Tongue is a little thing that is a big problem - Jas 3:5-6
- ii. Slander is to say untrue, harmful things about someone
- iii. Solomon says stay away from the slanderer - Pr 20:19
 - the point of the first line is it may be your secrets next
 - the definition of friend is someone who could ruin you, but doesn't
 - don't be a Hezekiah with the Babylonian ambassadors until a friend earns trust

b. Flattery

- i. Solomon's warnings Pr 20:6; 29:5
- ii. Deceit (flattery) acted on could bring embarrassment
- iii. Already have a problem with self deceit - Jer 17:9

4. Disloyalty

- a. The problem expressed - Pr 20:6; 25:19
- b. Questions:
 - a. What is the problem with a bad tooth or an unsteady foot?
 - b. What do the a bad tooth or an unsteady foot have in common?
- c. The Answer with a question - When do both show their natures?
 - a. their weakness is exposed when pressure is applied
 - b. disastrous to trust in one only to have them fail you when needed
- d. Loyalty requires holding to a commitment, especially when it becomes inconvenient