

You live in a Culture of Death & you live in a Society of Violence!

- Gen 6.11 - the earth was filled with violence
- Gen 6.13 - the violence of the earth has come up before me, for the earth is filled with violence, and behold i am about to destroy them with the earth.
- Psalm 11.5 - the one who loves Violence GOD's soul HATES
- Psalm 73:6 - pride is their necklace; the garment of violence covers them.
- Proverbs 3.31 - do not envy a man of violence.
- Prov 16.29 - leads him in a way that is NOT good
- Romans 1.29 - being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice.

Background to Prov 1.8-19

- Proverbs 1:1-7 introduce the Book. Prov 1:8 really begins the *Fatherly counsel to his son*; “*Truth for Youth*”
- The wise Father deals ***FIRST*** with friends, violence, influences, greed, selfish-gain.

The Father's Caution to his son — “MY Son: Refuse Violent Companions Because It'll Kill You!”

> 3 headings as we hear the Father's caution to His Son [begin with “My Son” vv.8, 10, 15]

I. DESIRE GOOD COUNSEL! (8-9)

- **DO LISTEN UP!** // Take in! (*the word*)
- Dad **and** Mom are a discipling team in raising their children -- actively teaching, faithful exhorting, diligently evangelizing, patiently shepherding!

Don't miss it. Both the Father and the Mother are instructing and teaching. The Father is held accountable as the leader but both are to ensure that the children sit under biblical wisdom & instruction every single day.

 1. See how communicative the Father is with his son (doesn't hide the reality of how things are; he shepherds his son thru it)
 2. See how specific & intentional the Father is with his son (doesn't shy away from speaking hard truth; thoughtful, engaging)
 3. See how the Father gives warnings with SINS to avoid and gives encouragements with ways to RUN (unafraid to warn & admonish & command his son to obey and steer clear of these 'sinful, youthful friends/influences).
 4. See how the Father lovingly warns of disastrous consequences (warns of grave consequences & life-destroying results).
Sin always hurts; There is no good thing in sin—ever!

II. DISCERN VIOLENT INFLUENCES! (10-14)

- **DO NOT CONSENT!** // Think about! (*the violent*)

V.10 - sinners entice you - “deceive, persuade, entice, talk you into something” (=peer pressure)

Verses 11-12 - Let us...Let us... & v.13-14 - We will...we will.

Don't miss this contrast! (vv.13-14)

- ❖ Sinners love wealth and use people to get more wealth!
- ❖ Saints love people and use their wealth to serve & minister to other people!

What's the *root of all this*? pride, envy, greed, jealousy, retaliation, covetousness, selfish ambition, etc. The heart? We want More! (James 4.2!)

III. DISASSOCIATE WITH VIGILANCE! (15-19)

- DO NOT **WALK!** // Turn away! (*from evildoers*)

1. The command (15)

2. The caution (16)

Interestingly, this is partially quoted later in Isaiah 59:7 and then later by Paul in Romans 3:15 to show the utter LOSTNESS of all men apart from Christ! Be warned!

Beware & be cautioned -- there is *nothing good about violence & feet swift to shed blood!*

3. The comparison (17)

4. The condemnation (18-19)

Sin has a very harsh irony to it:

- He who pursues evil will bring about his own death (Prov 11.19)
- In the work of his own hands the wicked is snared (Ps 9.16)
- His own iniquities will capture the wicked & he will be held in the cords of his own sin (Prov 5.22)
- Those who sow trouble harvest it (Job 4.8)
- They dug a pit before me; they themselves have fallen into the midst of it (Ps 57.6)
- He who digs a pit will fall into it (Prov 26.27)
- He who leads the upright astray into the evil way will himself fall into his own pit (Prov 28.10)

The answer is **NOT** being a recluse and isolating oneself from the world:

Here is what we *SHOULD* do...

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| 1. Get Biblical Instruction | <i>(read/study/fill/renew/purify)</i> |
| 2. Practical Biblical Discernment | <i>(be thoughtful/biblical worldview)</i> |
| 3. Consider Jesus' Presence | <i>(Jesus is with you at all times)</i> |
| 4. Meditate on Hell's Severity | <i>(hell is severe/the godless go there; Rom 3.15)</i> |
| 5. Enjoy Christ's Preciousness | <i>(Christ is ALL IN ALL!)</i> |

John Piper counseled:

“NO ONE watches a violent program and becomes *MORE* spiritual as a result of it. What we desperately need is help to enlarge our capacities to be moved by the immeasurable glories of Christ. . . . TV almost always takes us in the opposite direction — lowering, shrinking, deadening our capacities for worshiping Christ.”

So we need more satisfaction in God! More of Christ! Psalm 90:14 (& Ps 81:15-16).

"The Bible is the basic textbook in the home. It was once the basic textbook in the educational system, but even if that were still true, the Bible in the school can't replace the Bible in the home. I note that many modern parents sacrifice time and money to help their children excel in music, sports, and social activities; [But] I trust they're even more concerned that their children excel in knowing and obeying the Word of God."

-- **Warren Wiersbe**

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
 In heaven above and earth below
 Praise God the Father and the Son
 Praise God the Spirit, three-in-one

Eternal are Your mercies, Lord
 Eternal truth attends Your Word
 Your praise will sound from shore to shore
 Till suns shall rise and set no more

From all that dwell beneath the skies
 Let the Creator's praise arise
 Let our Redeemer's name be sung
 Through every land, by every tongue

CHRIST IS ALL

I've found a treasure that can't be taken
 Found a well that won't run dry
 O worldly pleasure be now forsaken
 Behold what love what life is mine
 Could endless striving now make me righteous
 Could all my works now grant me hope
 Oh hallelujah, the blood of Jesus
 My only plea, my only boast!

**Christ is all, Christ is all
 And my song will ever be
 Christ is all, All in all
 And my song will ever be: “Christ is all!”**

And in the trial when storms are raging
 Though tears may fall my soul will rise
 For there's a peace that is mine unchanging
 There is a joy that never dies

When life is passing and strength is fading
 I'll see the One that I adore
 Let this world vanish, oh give me Jesus!
 My great desire, my true reward!

PRAYER MEETING GUIDE:

1. Bless God that He is the God of life, peace, reconciliation and truth.
2. Plead for Life -- overturning of Roe v. Wade; closing of all Planned Parenthoods; pray for Churches for Life
3. Intercede for CFBC, our children/youth -- in this culture, to *heed* Godly wisdom & *flee* from evil influences.
4. Ask that God would satisfy us with Christ -- more of Him, more knowledge & experience of His love.