

Topics in Proverbs

I. Skill in Godly Relationships - Pt 1

A. The Importance of Relationships

1. Caution Against Isolation - Pro 18:1

a. A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; - a

i. purposeful isolation

ii. A social hermit

b. He rages against all wise judgment. - b

i. God's x-ray of his condition

ii. Does not reflect man's view

- probably has reasons why he thinks isolation is a good idea

- some reasons may be true and considered good by mankind

- God sees this as foolishness

2. Individualism

a. Personal Responsibility

i. Individual judgment - Ro 14:12; 2 Co 5:10

ii. Individual salvation - Jo 1:12; 3:16

iii. Individual responsibility - Gal 6:5

b. Context under the Law of Moses

i. each born into community and commanded to

- love neighbor - Le 19:18

- take part in group worship

ii. No private relationship with God,

- worshipping at the home altar in place of corporate worship

- believers have to participate w/ the community of faith

c. Context under the New Covenant - Ephesians

i. 3 chapters of heavy doctrinally rich truths on the wonders of redemption

ii. 4:1-6, Paul turns to the church

- walk worthy of that redemption

- dealing with one another

-in love

-humility

-in peace

- Why? - one body

iii. Similar teaching in Ro 12:9-10,13,16; Phil 2:2-4; Heb 10:19-25; 1 Pe

1:22; 1 Jo 2:10; 3:10-18; 4:7-8

B. Caution Against Excess - Pro 18:24

1. Translation - Line A

a. A man who has friends must himself be friendly, (NKJV)

b. A man of too many comes to ruin (NASV)

c. A man with many friends may be harmed (HCSV)

2. Interpretation

- a. the “man with many friends” values popularity - Facebook, Tic-Toc, Instagram
- b. “may be harmed” refers to
 - i. the dissolution of the man’s character in that
 - he does anything to have friends - Pr 25:26
 - he learns bad habits from bad friends - Pro 22:24-25; 1 Co 15:33
 - ii. The calamity of a faithless friend in rough times - Pro 25:19
 - iii. Judgment that one may incur do to associations - 1:10,18-19; 13:20b; 2 Chr 19:1-3; 20:35-37

3. Application

- a. one good friend (Pro 17:17) is worth fifty bad friends (Pro 25:19).
- b. Conclusion - Choose your friends Wisely

4. Extension into NT Teaching

- a. With whom should we not be friends
 - i. People who cause divisions b/c of doctrinal deviations - Ro 16:17
 - ii. The professing believer under church discipline - Mt 18:17
 - iii. The professing believer who is immoral, covetous, idolatrous, a reviler, a drunkard, or a swindler, we shouldn’t even eat with them - 1 Co 5:11
 - iv. unbelievers who are actively involved in immorality - 1 Pe 4:4
 - v. The world, hostile against God - Jas 4:4
- b. The bond of our relationship with Christ is the basis for any good relationship
 - i. Our hope of glory - Col 1:27
 - ii. Our Life - 3:4
 - iii. Our All - 1 Co 1:30
 - iv. Our Spiritual vitality - Jo 15:1-8
 - v. Our source of all good - Eph 1:3-14
- c. Conclusion
 - i. we must abide in Christ’s love - Jo 15:10
 - ii. We must forsake anything that hinders that relationship and walk worthy of the Lord - Col 1:9-10