

Relational Wisdom

Dr. Larry Lamb – January 13, 2019

The Foundation

Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline. Proverbs 1.7

WISE AND UNWISE ASSOCIATIONS EVENTFULLY TELL THE STORY IN SOMEONE'S LIFE.

The wisdom of Proverbs is reality-based counseling as we live in this fantasy world of human invention. RAY ORTLUND

Proverbs 1.8,9 *My child, listen when your father corrects you. Don't neglect your mother's instruction.⁹ What you learn from them will crown you with grace and be a chain of honor around your neck.*

WISE PEOPLE LISTEN TO WISE AUTHORITY.

What's the typical pattern of the foolish? They fail in foreseeing where their thinking, decisions, actions, and relationships will take them.

Proverbs 1.10-16 *My child, if sinners entice you, turn your back on them!¹¹ They may say, "Come and join us. Let's hide and kill someone! Just for fun, let's ambush the innocent!"¹² Let's swallow them alive, like the grave; let's swallow them whole, like those who go down to the pit of death.¹³ Think of the great things we'll get! We'll fill our houses with all the stuff we take.¹⁴ Come, throw in your lot with us; we'll all share the loot."¹⁵ My child, don't go along with them! Stay far away from their paths.¹⁶ They rush to commit evil deeds. They hurry to commit murder.*

Proverbs 1.17 *If a bird sees a trap being set, it knows to stay away.*

Proverbs 22.3 *A prudent person foresees danger and takes precaution. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.*

What happens to the unwise?

Proverbs 16.29 *Violent people deceive their companions, leading them down a harmful path.*

This is why arguments erupt with the unwise. They refuse feedback and see the wise person's care as a threat to their lifestyle and relationship choices.

A fool tries to adjust the truth, so he does not have to adjust to it.

HENRY CLOUD

The unwise tend to argue when presented with what is wise. That's a *defense mechanism* to deflect away truth.

Foolish people go on their way living by their standard, their perception of life, and living according to their self-imposed authority.

Is there anyone you need to delete from your life?

Are you in a relationship with someone who is diluting your effectiveness as follower of Christ?

- ◆ Wise people never want to be a distraction. Wise people never want to see your demise.
- ◆ Wise people never want to deplete your passion for Jesus.
- ◆ Wise people never inject anything into your life that is harmful.
- ◆ Wise people respect your body and your boundaries.

Proverbs 13.20 *Walk with the wise and become wise; associate (get into a relationship) with fools and get into trouble.*

1. Anyone here need to make a serious **INVENTORY** of the people who are influencing you negatively?
2. Anyone here need to make a **FRESH** commitment to the ways of Jesus? Acquiring wisdom in life is never an accident. People don't casually drift toward wisdom. They pursue wisdom.

Jesus, I thank You that you came and died on the cross for my sins so that I can be forgiven. I am a sinner and in need of Your grace, mercy, and forgiveness. I turn from my sins and say "No" to a life of living for myself. I turn to You and say "Yes" to Your will for my life. I ask You now to save me from my sins. I open my heart to You and receive You as my Lord and Savior. Thank you for saving me and forgiving me. In Jesus' Name. Amen.