

Every Good Path: The Wise “Fellow”

The Good path of this is learning to be a “Wise Fellow”

-Fellow isn't a word we use very much in English. It sounds a bit uppity saying “My Dear Fellow” or that “other fellow” or in the context of church life we might experience “Fellowship” or get invited to a potluck at the “fellowship hall”.

But it's the best representation of how this area of wisdom is applied to friends and neighbors, because in Hebrew it's the same word.

DEAR FELLOW = Friend OTHER FELLOW = Neighbor

Proverbs 18:17 (CSB)

17 The first to state his case seems right
until **another** comes and cross-examines him.

Proverbs 17:17 (CSB)

¹⁷ A **friend** loves at all times,
and a brother is born for a difficult time.

So how do we be wise fellows.

IT STARTS WITH BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR

A Wise Neighbor pursues peaceful living when they can.

Proverbs 3:27–29 (CSB)

27 When it is in your power,
don't withhold good from the one to whom it belongs.
28 Don't say to your neighbor, “Go away! Come back later.
I'll give it tomorrow”—when it is there with you.
29 Don't plan any harm against your neighbor,
for he trusts you and lives near you.

A Wise Neighbor strives for reconciliation whenever needed.

Proverbs 25:8–10 (CSB)

8 Don't take a matter to court hastily.
Otherwise, what will you do afterward
if your opponent humiliates you?
9 Make your case with your opponent
without revealing another's secret;
10 otherwise, the one who hears will disgrace you,
and you'll never live it down.

A Wise Neighbor knows that how he treats others says more about himself than them.

Proverbs 21:10 (CSB)

¹⁰ A wicked person desires evil;
he has no consideration for his neighbor.

How should we be wise friends?

1. Choose your friends wisely.

Proverbs 13:20 (CSB)

20 The one who walks with the wise will become wise,
but a companion of fools will suffer harm.

Proverbs 22:24–25 (CSB)

24 Don't make friends with an angry person,
and don't be a companion of a hot-tempered one,
25 or you will learn his ways
and entangle yourself in a snare.

2. The Wise Friend is Consistent

Proverbs 18:24 (CSB)

24 One with many **friends** may be harmed,
but there is a **friend** who stays closer than a brother.

Proverbs 17:17 (CSB)

17 A **friend** loves at all times,
and a brother is born for a difficult time.

Proverbs 27:10 (CSB)

10 **Don't abandon your friend** or your father's friend,
and don't go to your brother's house
in your time of calamity;
better a neighbor nearby than a brother far away.

3. The Wise Friend is Truthful

Proverbs 27:6 (CSB)

6 The wounds of a friend are trustworthy,
but the kisses of an enemy are excessive.

Proverbs 29:5

5 A person who flatters his friend
spreads a net for his feet.

Proverbs 28:23 (CSB)

23 One who rebukes a person will **later** find more favor
than one who flatters with his tongue.

4. The Wise Friend Gives Good Council

Proverbs 27:9 (CSB)

9 Oil and incense bring joy to the heart,
and the sweetness of a friend is better than self-counsel.

Proverbs 27:17 (CSB)

¹⁷ Iron sharpens iron,
and one person sharpens another.

5. The Wise Friend Cares About the Heart

Proverbs 25:20 (CSB)

20 Singing songs to a troubled heart
is like taking off clothing on a cold day
or like pouring vinegar on soda.,

Proverbs 26:18–19 (CSB)

18 Like a madman who throws flaming darts and deadly arrows,
19 so is the person who deceives his neighbor
and says, “I was only joking!”

So what do I do if I don't like my “neighbor”?

Proverbs 25:21–22 (CSB)

21 If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat,
and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink,
22 for you will heap burning coals on his head,
and the LORD will reward you.

Pastor's Challenge: Invite someone you don't know well but want to, out to lunch, to your family dinner, or for coffee.