

MESSAGE TITLE: Wisdom for Your Home

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 11:29, Proverbs 28:26 and I Corinthians 10:30-31

KEY TRUTH: *Because many of the issues we face in our relationships require wisdom, we will spend time studying wise practices from God's Word.*

GETTING STARTED

Wisdom is the capacity to understand how to apply God's Word to life. We all need wisdom, especially when navigating relationships with family and friends. Today, we will examine how wisdom principles can be applied to relationships. Many wisdom principles in Scripture can be found in the book of Proverbs. It's important to note when approaching this book of the Bible that proverbs are different than promises. Proverbs describes how life will *generally* go for those who apply certain wisdom principles. They don't offer guarantees for how life will work out. Wisdom principles will, however, give you solid guidance on how to relate well to people, whether they are family members, friends, neighbors or co-workers. Wise people admit that they don't have all the answers to life's questions and readily come to God for help. You'll find godly help in the wisdom principles of God's word for all your relationships, even the tough ones.

OBSERVATION

Read Proverbs 11:29.

Consider the context by reading Proverbs 11:23-31.

This passage depicts the destinies of the wicked and the righteous based on their actions. The particular actions in focus are the way a person relates to provisions and people. The benefit of the generous life of the righteous for others is represented throughout the section in several agricultural images: waters, flourish like a green leaf, fruit and tree of life. These images represent a fuller illustration of the statement in 18b that 'one who sows in righteousness gets a sure reward.'

How might someone 'trouble his own household'?

What does it mean to inherit the wind?

What does it mean to be wise of heart? What other ways could you describe someone who is wise of heart?

Read Proverbs 28:26.

Does this verse discourage believers from thinking critically about the issues they face in life? If not, then what does the author mean here?

What's the difference between trusting one's own mind and walking in wisdom?

What does this verse promise to those who walk in wisdom? Delivered from what or who?

Read I Corinthians 1:30-31.

Paul teaches that believers are found in Christ. What does it mean to be in Christ? What does this passage say that Jesus became for us? Why is this really good news?

This passage describes a believer's position in Christ and the benefits he personally experiences as a result of that divine union with Christ. How then might this passage have any bearing on a believer's relationships with others?

APPLICATION

Have you been trusting in another source other than Jesus for wisdom to manage your relationships? If so, take some time to repent of failing to follow Jesus in this part of your life. Ask Jesus to reveal to you how you've contributed to the strain in your relationships. Trust Him to become for you the very wisdom of God in knowing how to approach these relationships in a way that honors Him and helps others.

Think about your toughest relationship issue. What does God's Word have to say about this issue? Admit that you don't have the wisdom or power to do what's in the best interests of your relationships. Ask God for help, and cast your cares about this problem onto Him (I Peter 5:7).

PRAYER

Read and pray through Philippians 2:3-4 below. Ask God to open your eyes to how He wants you to apply this passage to your relationships with your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers.

"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interest of others."

SHARE POINT

Read and review the application questions. Share with someone in your life how God's Word is changing you into a growing disciple. Encourage that person to do the same. That person could be a family member, a friend, a co-worker or a neighbor.

COMMENTARY NOTES

Proverbs 11:29

To bring trouble on one's own family members means that such a person will be disinherited from the estate; he will receive only wind or nothing at all. And rather than being wealthy and having servants, such a fool becomes a servant.

Proverbs 28:26

The word 'delivered' means to escape judgment. This implies that the object of a fool's trust, including his own schemes and plans, cannot save Him. Only following God's wise ways can save a person from harm and judgment.

I Corinthians 1:30-31

By the Father's doing, believers have an identification in Jesus's death, burial and resurrection. Because of this, they possess the wisdom of God – Christ crucified, the very essence of wisdom. Through this wisdom, believers have justification at God's court, sanctification that allows their entrance into His presence and ultimate redemption. In the wisdom of God, the plan of salvation was accomplished by a crucified Christ hidden from the wise and learned and revealed to simple believers with child-like faith.

SOURCES CONSULTED

ESV Study Bible

The Bible Knowledge Commentary, New Testament

HCSB Study Bible