

# The Men of Proverbs

## Men's Ministry

1. There is something special about having a strong friend that can help sharpen and strengthen us! **Proverbs 27:17** **Iron sharpeneth iron; So a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.**
  - a. For this to happen we will have to develop relationships with other men
  - b. You do become like those you spend time with in informal times **Amos 3:3** **Can two walk together, except they be agreed? I Thessalonians 5:21-22** **Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. 22** Abstain from all **appearance of evil.**
  - c. The way Jesus worked with men was via a relationship and what we can learn on life discipleship **Mark 3:13-14** **And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him. 14** And he ordained twelve, that they should be **with him**, and that he might send them forth to preach

d. Every man needs someone that will love them and believe in them

2. What would a mature man do to help other men

a. He would promote genuine growth and change

**Colossians 1:28** Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may **present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:**

b. He would provide a model to follow **Philippians 3:17-19**

Brethren, **be followers together of me, and mark them** which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. **18** (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ: **19** Whose end *is* destruction, whose God *is* their belly, and whose glory *is* in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

c. He would help other men reach their goals more efficiently

d. He would play a key role in God's pattern for growth

i. Barnabas did that with Paul **Acts 9:27** **But Barnabas took him, and brought *him* to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the**

way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.

- ii. God gave us pastors for that reason [Hebrews 13:7](#)  
Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of *their* conversation. [17](#)  
Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you.
- e. The mature man will help men help others [II Timothy 2:2](#)  
And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

### 3. These men are extremely needed

- a. All of us need a support system [Ecclesiastes 4:9-10](#) *Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. 10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.*
- b. All of us need to be believed in and loved

- c. We all need to be sharpened
- d. There are things that the young men need to know
- e. There are attitudes that they need help with
- f. There are habits and behaviors that need help
- g. They need help learning skills
- h. Many do not have godly fathers
- i. Even with fathers others can often help more

4. This relationship carries a high cost

- a. The problem isn't usually ability but motivation
- b. This causes an intense pressure between the two
- c. The young man can't come and ask the mature man or mentor to do the work
- d. It is for him to discuss and sharpen

5. Who should be helped if you decided to help younger men

- a. Is he working towards a goal
- b. Is he actively seeking challenging assignments and greater responsibilities **Philippians 3:13-14 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I**

press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

- c. Is he an initiator?
- d. Does he show initiative?
- e. Does he want to learn and does it actively show?
- f. Is he willing to assume responsibility for his own growth and development **I Timothy 1:18** This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;
- g. Put the ball in their court

6. How do we recognize this mature man or mentor

- a. He will have what you need
- b. He will work at cultivating the relationship
- c. He will take a chance on you, risk involved

**I Timothy 1:19-20** Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: **20** Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

- d. He will be respected by other men of God [II Timothy 2:2](#)  
**And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. [I Timothy 3:2](#) A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; [7](#) Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.**
- e. He knows how to talk and to listen
- f. He is consistent in his lifestyle [I Timothy 4:15](#) **Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting **may appear to all.****
- g. He can diagnose your needs
- h. He is concerned with you and your interests
- i. Has the knowledge and ability to help you

## 7. How do we go about getting this together

- a. Start praying [James 5:17-18](#)
- b. Look for your mentor or the one you would mentor
- c. Be honest about where you are. Do not try to be the mentor if you are not ready

- d. You should have been through foundations and understand how to teach before becoming a mentor
- e. This will take time-can't be done over night

Proverbs 1:1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel; 2 **To know** wisdom and instruction; **To perceive** the words of understanding; 3 **To receive** the instruction of wisdom, Justice, and judgment, and equity; 4 **To give** subtilty to the simple, To the young man knowledge and discretion. 5 A **wise man** will hear, and will increase learning; And a **man of understanding** shall attain unto wise counsels: 6 To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; The words of the wise, and their dark sayings. 7 **The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: But** fools despise wisdom and instruction. 8 **My son,** **hear the instruction** of thy father, And **forsake not the law** of thy mother: 9 For they *shall be* an ornament of grace unto

thy head, And chains about thy neck. 10 **My son,** if sinners entice thee, Consent thou not. 11 If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, Let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause: 12 Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; And whole, as those that go down into the pit: 13 We shall find all precious substance, We shall fill our houses with spoil: 14 Cast in thy lot among us; Let us all have one purse: 15 **My son,** walk not thou in the way with them; Refrain thy foot from their path: 16 For their feet run to evil, And make haste to shed blood. 17 Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird. 18 And they lay wait for their *own* blood; They lurk privily for their *own* lives. 19 So *are* the ways of every one that is **greedy of gain**; *Which* taketh

away the life of the owners thereof. 20 **Wisdom** crieth without; She uttereth her voice in the streets: 21 She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: In the city she uttereth her words, *saying*, 22 How long, ye **simple ones**, will ye love simplicity? And the



**scorners** delight in their scorning, And **fools** hate

knowledge? **23 Turn you** at my reproof: Behold, I

will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you. **24** Because I have called, and ye refused; I have

stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; **25** But ye have set at nought all my counsel, And would none of my reproof:

**26 I also will laugh** at your calamity; **I will mock** when your fear cometh; **27** When your fear cometh as desolation, And

your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; When distress and anguish cometh upon you. **28 Then shall they call** upon me,

**but I will not answer;** They shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: **29 For** that they hated knowledge, And did

not choose the fear of the Lord: **30** They would none of my counsel: They despised all my reproof. **31** Therefore shall

they **eat of the fruit of their own way,** And be filled with their own devices. **32** For the turning away of the

**simple** shall slay them, And the **prosperity** of **fools** shall destroy them. **33** But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell

safely, And shall be quiet from fear of evil.

1. Questions to guide us in a study of the book of Proverbs
  - a. What is the major theme of the book?
    - i. Wisdom is the major theme. The word wisdom or wise is use at least 125 times
    - ii. God wants us to learn to walk in wisdom  
**Ephesians 5:15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,**
    - iii. Wisdom means being skillful and successful in one's relationships and responsibilities ... observing and following the Creator's principles of order in the moral universe.
    - iv. Biblical wisdom starts with a right relationship with the Lord **7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge:**
    - v. Wisdom isn't about intelligence but more about worship
    - vi. Wisdom isn't something theoretical, it's something very practical that affects every area of life. It gives order and purpose to life; it gives discernment in making decisions; and it provides a sense of fulfillment in life to the glory of God.

vii. Wisdom keeps us in harmony with the principles and purposes that the Lord has built into His world so that as we obey God, everything works for us and not against us.

viii. When troubles come our way we learn how to deal wisely and correctly with them from a biblical perspective

b. Who wrote the book and how is it written? **1:1 The**

**proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel;**

i. God gave Solomon great wisdom **1 Kings 3:5–15**

ii. Other men also wrote part of the book **Proverbs 25:1**

iii. King Lemuel which might be another name for Solomon

iv. Solomon began his ministry in great wisdom but ended up in foolishness

v. Proverbs are used as short sayings that communicate great truths

vi. Solomon is talking to his son **8 My son, hear**

**the instruction of thy father, And forsake not the law of thy mother:**

- c. What is the key verse that helps “unlock” the message of the book? **7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge:** *But fools despise wisdom and instruction.*
- i. **2 To know** wisdom and instruction; *Instruction* carries the idea of discipline, a parent’s correction that results in the building of the child’s character. **To perceive the words of understanding;** *Understanding* means the ability to grasp a truth with insight and discernment. **3 To receive** the instruction of wisdom, Justice, and judgment, and equity; **4 To give** subtilty to the simple, Subtlety is the kind of intelligence that sees the reasons behind things. People with subtilty can think their way through complex matters and see what lies behind them, and thereby make wise decisions about them. (In a negative sense, the word means craftiness. It is used to describe Satan in **Genesis 3:1.**) **To the young man knowledge** The word translated *knowledge* comes from a Hebrew root that describes skill in hunting (**Genesis 25:27**), sailing (**2 Chronicles 8:18**), and playing a musical instrument (**1 Samuel 16:16**).

Knowledge involves the ability to distinguish; the Latin equivalent gives us our English word *science*. **and discretion.** *Discretion* is the ability to devise wise plans after understanding a matter. The negative meaning is “to devise a plot.” **5 A wise man will hear, and will increase learning;** The Hebrew root for *learning* means “to lay hold of, to grasp, to acquire or buy.” When we grasp something with the mind, then we have learned it. **And a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:** The word translated *counsel* is related to the verb “to steer a ship.” Counsel is wise guidance that moves one’s life in the right direction. **6 To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; The words of the wise, and their dark sayings.**

- d. What does this book say about Jesus Christ? In Jesus Christ “**are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge**” **Colossians 2:3** and He is our wisdom **1 Corinthians 1:24, 30**. Wisdom is a picture of Jesus
- e. What must I do to get the most out of this book?
  - i. Truly fear God which means you will be saved.
  - ii. Be diligent and disciplined in your study of this book

- iii. Be obedient to what God tells you
- iv. The Holy Spirit teaches the serious, not the curious.
- v. Remember that a proverb is a generalized statement which is usually true
  - 1. A soft answer doesn't always turn away wrath-that is a proverb not a promise **15:1 A soft answer turneth away wrath: But grievous words stir up anger.**
  - 2. A friend loves at all times but there might be exceptions **17:17 A friend loveth at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.**
  - 3. Jesus' ways pleased the Father but His enemies were not at peace with Him **16:7 When a man's ways please the Lord, He maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.**
- vi. The proverbs are guidelines to making wise decisions

2. The simple **22 How long, ye simple ones,** will ye love simplicity? And the **scorners** delight in their scorning, And **fools** hate knowledge?

- a. They believe everything and everybody and lack discernment **14:15** *The simple believeth every word: But the prudent **man** looketh well to his going.*
  - b. They are easily led astray because they lack understanding **7:7** *And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, A young man void of understanding,*
  - c. They keep getting into trouble because they can't see ahead **22:3** *A prudent **man** foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: But the simple pass on, and are punished.*
3. The scorner **22** *How long, ye **simple ones**, will ye love simplicity? And the **scorners** delight in their scorning, And **fools** hate knowledge?*
- a. The scorners mock at God's wisdom
  - b. The scorner thinks he knows everything **21:24** *Proud **and** haughty scorner **is** his name, Who dealeth in proud wrath.*
  - c. The idea of the scorner is sneering, curling the lips in scorn
  - d. The scorner gets nothing from rebuke **9:7-8** *He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame: And he*

that rebuketh a wicked *man getteth* himself a blot. 8

Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: Rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee. 13:1 A wise son *heareth* his father's instruction: But a scorner *heareth* not rebuke.

e. Judgement is coming for the scorner 19:29 Judgments are prepared for scorners, And stripes for the back of fools.

4. The fool is the person who is dense, sluggish, careless, and self-satisfied. 22 How long, ye **simple ones**, will ye love simplicity? And the **scorners** delight in their scorning, And **fools** hate knowledge?

a. Nabal in 1 Samuel 25 is a good example; the name "Nabal" means "fool."

b. The fool hates instruction 1:7 The fear of the Lord *is* the beginning of knowledge: **But fools despise wisdom and instruction.** 22 How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? And the scorners delight in their scorning, And **fools hate knowledge?**



- c. The fool is self-confident **12:15** The way of a fool *is* **right in his own eyes:** But he that hearkeneth unto counsel *is* wise.
  - d. The fool talks without thinking **29:11** **A fool uttereth all his mind:** But a wise *man* keepeth it in till afterwards.
  - e. The fool mocks at sin **14:9** **Fools make a mock at sin :** But among the righteous *there is* favour.
5. The wise **5** **A wise man** will hear, and will increase learning; And **a man of understanding** shall attain unto wise counsels:
- a. The wise listen to instruction **1:5** **A wise man** will hear, and will increase learning; And **a man of understanding** shall attain unto wise counsels:
  - b. They obey what they hear **10:8** The wise in heart will receive commandments: But a prating fool shall fall.
  - c. They remember what you teach them **10:14** **Wise men** lay up knowledge: But the mouth of the foolish *is* near destruction.

- d. They flee from sin **14:16** *A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: But the fool rageth, and is confident.*
- e. They watch their tongue **16:23** *The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, And addeth learning to his lips.*
- f. They are diligent in their daily work **10:5** *He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: But he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame.*