

Message #70

Proverbs 18:22-24

GOD'S WISDOM HAS KNOWLEDGE TO OFFER CONCERNING RELATIONSHIPS AND WISE PEOPLE LEARN AND APPLY THAT KNOWLEDGE.**RELATIONSHIP #1** – God's wisdom is concerned with spouse selection. **18:22**

The idea of “finding” a wife is the idea of arriving at or attaining to the point where the wife is found. The specific context of this proverb is one of speech (verses 20-21, **23** all refer to this). Perhaps what Solomon had in mind was finding a wife who could control her speech habits. When one finds such a woman, it is good and favorable in the sight of God. According to Proverbs, a good wife is:

- 1) A crown to her husband. 12:4
- 2) A gift from God. 19:14
- 3) Of great worth. 31:10

According to Proverbs, a bad wife is:

- 1) As rotteness to the bones of her husband. 12:4
- 2) One that destroys a home. 14:1
- 3) A continual problem. 19:13
- 4) One that can be total misery to live with. 21:9

One Pastor in the 1600's, whose name was William Beveridge, wrote:

“I shall always endeavor to make choice of such a woman for my spouse, who hath first made choice of Christ as a spouse for herself; that none may be made one flesh with me, who is not made one spirit with Christ my Savior. For I look upon the image of Christ as the best mark of beauty I can behold in her, and the grace of God as the best portion I can receive with her. These are excellences, which, though not visible to our carnal eyes, are nevertheless agreeable to a spiritual heart; and such as all wise and good men cannot choose but be enamored with. For my own part, they seem to me such necessary qualifications, that my heart trembles at the thoughts of ever having a wife without them”

RELATIONSHIP #2 – God's wisdom is concerned with social exclusivity. **18:23**

Many dishonorable things may lead to poverty–laziness (6:10-11); stinginess (11:24); unteachableness (13:18); talkativeness (14:23); and hastiness (21:5). But this proverb is not discussing dishonorable poverty. In this case an honorable person who was poor went to a person who was rich for help and instead of being merciful (14:31), he answered roughly a proud, dominant answer.

RELATIONSHIP #3 – God's wisdom is concerned with our friendships. **18:24**

The contextual connection is when one is poor and down and out, true friendship will be seen because real friends will stick closer to you than a brother (17:17). This proverb either means if one has many friends, he must be broken for them or if one has many friends, they will eventually break him. There is one friendship that surpasses all–Jesus Christ (John 15:14-15).