

Message #124

Proverbs 29:2-6

THE KIND OF LEADERSHIP WE HAVE IN REGARD TO OTHERS AND SELF DETERMINES WHETHER WE ARE WISE OR FOOLISH.

No matter what we do for a living, no matter who our relatives are, no matter what our social standing is, each of us will affect others by our wisdom or folly. How we lead ourselves is critical.

EFFECT #1 – Wise or foolish leadership has an emotional effect on people. **29:2**

Generally speaking, when righteous leaders are in authority, there is a prevailing happiness and unity; but when wicked leaders are in authority, there is gloom and chaos. This proverb assumes the community loves righteous leadership.

EFFECT #2 – Wise or foolish children have an emotional effect on parents. **29:3**

We live in a day when parents get blamed for just about everything pertaining to the children; but Proverbs suggests the child is to be blamed for his/her own decisions (10:1; 15:20; 23:15, 24; 27:11; 28:7). The child who causes his/her righteous parents to rejoice because of righteousness is very wise and heading to great blessing; but one who brings sorrow to parents because of sin is heading to great judgment (Eph. 6:1-3).

EFFECT #3 – Wise or foolish leadership has a stabilizing effect on society. **29:4**

The words “bribe” refers to one who will thwart justice because someone is giving him gifts, offerings or bribe money. Leaders who allow money to influence their decisions are fools.

EFFECT #4 – Wise or foolish speech has an effect on neighbors. **29:5**

George Lawson said, “Solomon was a great enemy to flattery.” When a neighbor continually flatters you to your face, be on special guard for he may be trying to ensnare you.

EFFECT #5 – A wise or foolish lifestyle has an effect on self. **29:6**

Those who are in sin will eventually be snared, whereas those who are righteous will eventually be singing. The Bible is very clear that **evil traps a person and righteousness frees a person.**

It is amazing that so many people believe that freedom and happiness come through sinning against the standards of God, when, in all reality, it comes through conforming to the standards of God.