

Message #127

Proverbs 29:22-27

This final section of chapter 29 is specifically aimed at men. The noun “man” shows up in these six verses six times (29:22(2x), 23, 25-27). Three different Hebrew words are translated “man” in these verses—ish (22a, 26, 27); ba al (22b); adam (23, 25)—this section is about men.

A WISE MAN WILL APPLY GOD’S WISE INSTRUCTION TO ALL PHASES OF HIS PERSONALITY AND LIFE.

Wise men take in God’s Word; they listen to it, they learn it and they live it.

TEACHING #1 – The wise man is not an angry or furious man. **29:22**

(Reason #1) – Because an angry man stirs up strife. **29:22a**

The word “man” (ish) here seems to imply that one believes he is more masculine if he has a short fuse; but such a one is stupid, strifeful and sinful.

(Reason #2) – Because a furious man multiplies transgression. **29:22b**

The word “man” (ba al) here seems to imply domination—the man is hotheaded because he wants to dominate. Wise men are controlled men, not emotionally unstable men.

TEACHING #2 – The wise man is not a proud man but a humble man. **29:23**

One of the real struggles for a man is his pride. The noun “man” in this verse is a different Hebrew word than both in the previous verses. This word (adam) emphasizes the common man. The wise man is not proud, but humble; he does not elevate himself, he elevates God; he is not high-minded, but low-minded.

TEACHING #3 – A wise man is not a partner with thieves. **29:24**

If one goes into partnership with a thief, he is doing something negative to his own life and if called to testify in a legal court, he cannot say anything because he will incriminate himself.

TEACHING #4 – A wise man finds his stability in God, not man. **29:25** (adam—common man)

The idea of fearing man is the idea of being so terrified of another man that one would refuse to do right. In fact, the word “snare” speaks of something that will eventually trap and bring injury to self. A wise man trusts God and does right no matter what the threat from another man.

TEACHING #5 – A wise man realizes it is God’s judgment that is most important. **29:26**

God has absolute sovereign control over all thoughts and decisions (Prov. 21:1; 16:1, 3, 9, 10, 33). A wise man spends his life seeking to have the favor of God (“man”-ish-masculine).

TEACHING #6 – A wise man realizes there is a permanent clash with the wicked. **29:27**

Those who conform to the standards of God will never have harmony with those who don’t (“man”-ish-masculine). This world needs wise men of God.