

Wisdom In Relationships (Summer Wisdom 2016)

Introduction

- Your Grandmother was right
- Friendships and partnerships are never neutral
- What would it look like if our relations were bathed in the grace of Christ.
-
- **Wisdom in Relationships**

#1 A Silent Mouth is Sweet to Hear (Proverbs 15:1-4) [Tongue]

Your mouth and words have the power to change relationships

A gentle word turns away anger. We know that anger does not lead to righteousness.

A harsh word stirs up

- Are your words stirring or calming to others?
- Some people enjoy stirring the pot. That is not godliness it is sinful.

The mouth of the foolish blurts

- Blurts = bubbles forth
- The bible rarely uses this word for good. It almost always refers to folly.
- Are you quick to listen and slow to speak?
 - If you are quick to speak, sarcastic, witty, ask yourself is this healing or hurting to others?
 - The image conjures something spouting too quickly like a geyser (Walke)
 - **Old Faithful**

Speech that does damage is deceitful; speech that heals is truthful (Walke)

Prov. 18:8 A gossip's words are like choice food
that goes down to one's innermost being.

- Rumors are negative reports about other people base on uncertain evidence (Longman). They are spread to injure not help.
- Even though harmful, people often find the words of gossips irresistible. And this proverb likens gossip to really fine food

Our mouth is a powerful tool in any relationship.

The most powerful words were never spoken

Is. 53:7 He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet He did not open His mouth.
Like a lamb led to the slaughter
and like a sheep silent before her shearers,
He did not open His mouth.

Jesus Christ kept his mouth closed that you might have eternal life.

Do you need to find forgiveness and restoration where your mouth has caused damage?

#2 You can get glad in the same bitches you got mad in (Proverbs 22:24-25) [Anger]

We are commanded not to be controlled by our anger.

- The roots of anger grow in the soil of selfishness.

We are counseled not to “make friends” or be a companion with a hot tempered man

- This does not negate the mandate of Jesus to continue being salt and light (Matt 5:13-16)
- *We are more likely to glorify God if we link arms with even tempered people rather than rash, or angry individuals*
- the quick tempered is like a bomb with a short fuse (NICOT)
 - the habits of the angry are both infectious and lethal (NICOT)
 - his ways
 - in addition to getting his companions in trouble, the angry also passes his ungodly behavior to his friend (NICOT)

- **A quick temper will make a fool of you soon enough –Bruce Lee**
- **Anger is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die – Buddha**

Anger is the opposite of our heavenly Father's nature

- **Psalm 103:8** The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and rich in faithful love.

Anger NEVER accomplishes righteousness

- **James 1:19** My dearly loved brothers, understand this: Everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger, ²⁰ for man's anger does not accomplish God's righteousness. ²¹ Therefore, ridding yourselves of all moral filth and evil, humbly receive the implanted word, which is able to save you.

Jesus endured the anger and wrath of God for your sake

- *In Christ alone "on that cross, as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied."*

Do you have anger problems?

Have you hurt of been hurt by anger? Find forgiveness

#3 Eat Your Vegetables (Prov. 15:17) [Love]

People of God must have their relationships infused with the Love of Christ. If you are lacking love then you are lacking the transforming power of Jesus Christ in your life.

- 1 Cor 13:3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.
- Vegetables are a basic fare, but they surpass even the most expensive and desired meal if one finds oneself the object of hate rather than love.
 - A good relationship with people rather than things is preferred (Longman)
- "better a meal of greens where there is love' than a fatted ox where there is hatred" (Alter)

#4 Respect Your Elders (Prov. 22:28) [Honor]

- God's Word warns us against betraying the past. And greed would be the most likely motive for such a sin (TOTC)
- The removal of a boundary stone would be an attempt to encroach or even totally possess the land of another person (Longman)
- Reflects the general view that real property should be inalienable (Alter)
- In the ANE boundaries stood under the protection of the god of the land (NICOT)
- Your ancestors refers to the first or the former generations who marked out the boundaries of their families when they settled the land (NICOT)
- In the ANE people had great respect for private and tribal boundaries to essential for a family's life (NICOT)

Conclusion

Lord

Prov. 15:8 The sacrifice of the wicked is detestable to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is His delight.

Prov. 15:9 The LORD detests the way of the wicked, but He loves the one who pursues righteousness.

Why does it Matter?

- We have been justified (made right before the Lord) and accepted
- We receive forgiveness (redeemed)
- We escape God's wrath (reconciled)
- We are adopted in to a new family
- We gain a new identity (New Creation)
- **Believe, Confess, Faith, Baptism**

Notes

Anger

Prov. 22:24 Don't make friends with an angry man,
and don't be a companion of a hot-tempered man,

25 or you will learn his ways
and entangle yourself in a snare.

- “people controlled by anger’ don’t associate with wrathful people”
- these are people characterized by their anger (Longman)
- “do not join a hotheaded person” (Alter)
- the quick tempered is like a bomb with a short fuse (NICOT)
 - the habits of the angry are both infectious and lethal (NICOT)
- his ways
 - in addition to getting his companions in trouble, the angry also passes his ungodly behavior to his friend (NICOT)

Honor/Legacy

Prov. 22:28 Don't move an ancient boundary marker, that your fathers set up.

- God's Word warns us against betraying the past. And greed would be the most likely motive for such a sin (TOTC)
- The removal of a boundary stone would be an attempt to encroach or even totally possess the land of another person (Longman)
- Reflects the general view that real property should be inalienable (Alter)
- In the ANE boundaries stood under the protection of the god of the land (NICOT)
- Your ancestors refers to the first or the former generations who marked out the boundaries of their families when they settled the land (NICOT)
- In the ANE people had great respect for private and tribal boundaries to essential for a family's life (NICOT)

Peace

Prov. 11:12 Whoever shows contempt for his neighbor lacks sense,
but a man with understanding keeps silent.

- The most misleading way to feel wise is to feel superior (TOTC) “he who belittles”
- “He who despises his neighbor lacks heart; but a competent person stays silent” (Longman)
 - the fool verbally abuses the neighbor.

- Heart is the core personality.

Prov. 11:13 A gossip goes around revealing a secret,
but a trustworthy person keeps a confidence.

- Other OT references to the talebearer portray him as malicious rather than indiscreet, he is an informer, out to hurt.
 - Reveal = shows the stress this person is out to betray

Prov. 17:19 One who loves to offend loves strife;
one who builds a high threshold invites injury.

- It could mean to love the offense of another person and just picks away at it until the other person cannot stand it any longer and responds angrily (Longman)
 - Those that build a door too high (an architectural problem) will certainly have that doorway collapse
- The one who loves strife in either a verbal battle or coming to blows is the one who loves transgression (NICOT)
- High house = he has built his house/door higher than all of his neighbors. It is a source of pride and arrogance (NICOT).

Love

Prov. 15:17 Better a meal of vegetables where there is love
than a fattened ox with hatred.

- Vegetables are a basic fare, but they surpass even the most expensive and desired meal if one finds oneself the object of hate rather than love.
 - A good relationship with people rather than things is preferred (Longman)
- “better a meal of greens where there is love’ than a fatted ox where there is hatred” (Alter)

Prov. 17:17 A friend loves at all times,
and a brother is born for a difficult time.

Mouth

Prov. 15:1 A gentle answer turns away anger,
but a harsh word stirs up wrath.

- The proper response is one that maintains and promotes relationship. (Longman)

Prov. 15:2 The tongue of the wise makes knowledge attractive,

but the mouth of fools blurts out foolishness.

- Blurts = bubbles forth
- The Bible rarely uses the word gushes/blurts for something good but almost always refers to folly.
 - The image conjures something spouting too quickly like a geyser (Walke)

Prov. 15:4 The tongue that heals is a tree of life,
but a devious tongue breaks the spirit.

- Speech that does damage is deceitful; speech that heals is truthful (Walke)

Prov. 18:8 A gossip's words are like choice food
that goes down to one's innermost being.

- Rumors are negative reports about other people based on uncertain evidence (Longman). They are spread to injure not help.
- Even though harmful, people often find the words of gossips irresistible. And this proverb likens gossip to really fine food

See Prov. 11

Lord

Prov. 15:8 The sacrifice of the wicked is detestable to the LORD,
but the prayer of the upright is His delight.

Prov. 15:9 The LORD detests the way of the wicked,
but He loves the one who pursues righteousness.

Illustrations

Anger—

- **The best remedy for a short temper is a long walk – Joseph Joubert**
 - **A quick temper will make a fool of you soon enough –Bruce Lee**
 - **Anger is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die – Buddha**
 - **Anger is that acid that can do more to the vessel in which it is stored than to anything on which it is poured**
 -
- **25% spend \$1000/2500**

Mouth—

- **we have 2 ears and 1 mouth that we can listen twice as much as we speak (Epictetus)**
- **a silent mouth is sweet to hear**
- **a narrow mind and a wide mouth usually go together**

Application

Pro 3:9 Honor the LORD with your possessions

-