

# The Proverbs

## Lesson 14

*Proverbs 12:1-13*

### **Love/Hate**

**Proverbs 12:1** Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.

Everyone understands the extreme opposites of love and hate. Love is a willingness to accept and desire the right and godly; hate despises and rejects the good and righteous. Discipline and reproof mean correction and guidance. It is discipline when it is accepted; it is reproof when it is rejected. Discipline leads to knowledge; reproof leads to ignorance. The translators use the word stupid; however, the word ignorant is the original meaning. The ignorant can be cruel, harsh, insensitive, pitiless and mentally stubborn when reproofed. The knowledgeable person will grow in understanding and seek to stay on the right path that leads to good and godly results.

### **Favor/Condemn**

**Proverbs 12:2** A good man will obtain favor from the LORD, but He will condemn a man who devises evil.

This proverb deals with the actions of the LORD upon those who are good and evil. One will acquire the kindness of the LORD, the other will feel His attack. One is good, one is evil and to the LORD, they are worlds apart. The evil one will be declared guilty of sin by the Lord; the good one will be declared innocent.

### **Wicked/Righteous**

**Proverbs 12:3** A man will not be established by wickedness, but the root of the righteous will not be moved.

Some people never settle down, never grow up, never establish a home, never seek eternal things, never amount to much. What they do never satisfies; what they do always hurts family; what they do reeks of wickedness to the LORD. A righteous man settles down, grows up, establishes a home, seeks eternal things, amounts to much in the area in which he lives. What he does satisfies and heals families. He grows in godliness because he has put roots down in the LORD.

### **Crown/Shame**

**Proverbs 12:4** An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who shames *him* is as rottenness in his bones.

The crown is a headdress worn by persons of high merit and honor in the governmental, athletic and religious sectors of life. It brings pride. Obviously, a man does not wear his wife around his head. In this case, her speech and actions in the community enhance the reputation of her

husband. Because of who she is and what she does, he is a stronger man in the community. She brings him glory as Paul says in his letter to the Corinthians.

**1 Corinthians 11:7** For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man.

Conversely, the disgraceful wife is constantly doing things that the husband has to answer for, explain away or live with. He cannot do his work without worrying about what his wife is doing. What he builds, she tears down, whether or not it is intentional.

### ***Wicked/Righteous***

**Proverbs 12:5** The thoughts of the righteous are just, *but* the counsels of the wicked are deceitful.

A righteous person will think of others! Every thought considers the feelings of others and the ramifications of his decisions and actions on others. No so with the wicked! They do not care about others at all. Their advice will always be self-serving and dishonest. If a person asks a wicked person for advice, the warped mind of the counselor will be trying to devise a plan to profit from the one asking for help.

### ***Wicked/Righteous***

**Proverbs 12:6** The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood, but the mouth of the upright will deliver them.

This proverb could be a continuation of verse 5 because it continues the thought. The counselor will seek to profit from the counsel he has given. In most of America today, those who are basically civil are generally not concerned with the threat of death at the hands of the wicked. Such cases occur in America but not to the extent seen in other countries of the world. Nevertheless, evil counsel lies in wait to kill for a profit everywhere. Evil counselors are like the swine and no one should cast his pearls before a swine; the jewels will be consumed by the swine before they can be gathered and pulled back. The righteous person will gather the jewels and hand them back to the owner or keep them in safe-keeping until they can be returned. He will not flaunt them as his own and he will not dare keep them for himself. They belong to another and he will make sure they are returned. The righteous will rescue the one seeking counsel as best he can and help to guard such a person from all forms of slander, theft and attacks.

### ***Wicked/Righteous***

**Proverbs 12:7** The wicked are overthrown and are no more, but the house of the righteous will stand.

The wicked person who seeks ways to overthrow others is the one who is overthrown in the end. He will find himself trapped by the traps he set for others. Eventually, his traps lead to eternal death. Traps exist in the house of the righteous person but he knows where they are and carefully avoids them. He is prepared. He has a foundation that cannot be uprooted and dragged away. He has the knowledge and counsel to avoid those things that can damage his home.

## ***Praised/Despised***

**Proverbs 12:8** A man will be praised according to his insight, but one of perverse mind will be despised.

Insight can be understood as sound judgment. As children grow through adolescence into adulthood, they get a lesson in trustworthiness. Some friends they trust because of experiences with them, others they do not trust for the same reason. Some people learn to read the intent of people early in life; some are gullible until the day they die. Some are lucky enough to find counselors they can trust who consistently give good advice, others jump from counselor to counselor, some good, some evil, and they never realize who gives the best advice. Applause comes regularly for the good counselor full of sound judgment, but people seeking advice will soon learn that the counsel of the evil mind will lead them into a deeper pit of despair.

## ***Esteemed/Arrogant***

**Proverbs 12:9** Better is he who is lightly esteemed and has a servant, than he who honors himself and lacks bread.

The LORD has a plan for everyone in this world. Not everyone can be President of the United States. Not everyone can be a mayor of a city. Not everyone can be the boss. Not everyone can be the chief. Very few can adequately hold leadership positions. If everyone was a leader, no one would be the follower. It takes only a few shepherds to lead a herd of a thousand sheep. The LORD planned that a few will be the shepherds and many will make up the flock. Leaders plan and guide; followers bring the plans to reality. As we grow in the LORD, it is necessary that we accept where we are in the LORD's plan and not try to be what He never intended for us to be. The wrong person in the leadership position will bring hardship for the organization. The wrong person in the leadership spot may be the perfect person in the work force of the right leader. He should never think that he is better than the leader; that attitude will bring him dishonor and could get him fired from his job, causing him financial hardships of his family. It is better to be one of the flock who has carefully managed his money and can hire someone to help with tasks around the house than it is to be so arrogant that no one will allow him to have a job.

## ***Wicked/Righteous***

**Proverbs 12:10** A righteous man has regard for the life of his beast, but the compassion of the wicked is cruel.

One indicator of the true man can be seen in how he treats the animals in his care. Even though a man may have a herd of cattle intended for food, those cattle are treated well until the time they are to be used to feed the family. The same standard applies for all animals; nothing is to be killed simply for sport; animals should be killed to fulfill its purpose in the food chain. This claim cannot be made by the wicked man who kills for fun, tortures his family pets or fails to feed the animals he has in cages. The righteous person cares for God's creation; the wicked and cruel person abuses God's creation.

## ***Plenty/Little***

**Proverbs 12:11** He who tills his land will have plenty of bread, but he who pursues vain *things* lacks sense.

From the time of the ousting from the Garden of Eden until the industrial revolution, the two chief occupations of the world were farming and herding. Both require hard work; both represent a hard life; both epitomize honest labor; both can return a bountiful blessing. One of the secrets of each year's success for the farmer begins with the tilling of the land. The old dried crop must be turned under to rot; later the soil must be turned again to continue the decay; before planting, the farmer must turn the land to form the rows. Each year the process is repeated. Each year the farmer has bread on his table. The farmer who fails to till his land but chases after efforts that return no farming value will cause his land to fail to provide bread for his family. For every job, a time exists to work and a time exists to play. When it is time to till, the farmer should let nothing distract him.

### ***Wicked/Righteous***

**Proverbs 12:12** The wicked desires the booty of evil men, but the root of the righteous yields *fruit*.

Sinful men crave the treasures of others, especially those which have been collected illegally by other sinful men. Conversely, the godly man produces his own resources, legally and rightfully.

### ***Wicked/Righteous***

**Proverbs 12:13** An evil man is ensnared by the transgression of his lips, but the righteous will escape from trouble.

Lies are harder to remember and repeat than the truth. It does not take long before the liar causes the listener to doubt his words. The listener trusts the words of the truth teller and believes them.