

“Ancient Wisdom for a Modern World”
A Study in Proverbs
Lesson #5 – Relationships

Introduction: As society moves as the speed of light, many are caught up in the rat race. People are literally walking over others to obtain the big screen television during holiday sales. As society becomes more self-absorbed, and possessions provide others more meaning than human beings, is there any wonder why relationships cannot be sustained or remain our priority. Solomon in Prov 17:17 exalts the virtues and blessings of friendship and urges the child of God to cultivate and maintain friendship with the righteous.

Today we will consider some key Proverbs providing for our attitude towards the type of relationship we should have.

1. Avoiding bad relationships (be prepared to discuss).

Prov 4:14 -15

Prov 16:19

Prov 29:26-27

2. Getting along with others (be prepared to discuss).

Prov 3:28-30

Prov 25:8-10

Prov 26:18-20

3. Love and Friendship

Prov 14:21-22

Prov 15:17-18

Prov 19:22

4. Respect for parents

Prov 7:1-3

Prov 20:20

Questions for Discussion

1. Is Candor is a quality of a true friend? If we surround ourselves with “yes men”, why is this spiritually detrimental? (Prov 28:23& Prov 29:5)
2. Why should a trustworthy friend be considerate? Why is demonstrating compassion for the feelings of our friend a key attribute? (Prov 25:20)
3. Genuine friends are loyal and dependable. How can we demonstrate loyalty and dependability to our friends (Proverbs 27:10; 18:24; 17:17; 14:20:19:4)?
4. Genuine friends challenge one another to develop and mature. In what ways can we stimulate one another to grow towards spiritual maturity and ministry effectiveness (Ephesians 4:12; Proverbs 27:17; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)?