

## D2: The Home—Building Up or Tearing Down? (Proverbs 14:1)

"The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish tears it down with her own hands." Proverbs 14:1

### Introduction

Pro 12:18; 18:21; 2:6

1 Co. 1:30

Pro 2:1-6

Pro 16:7—e.g. of what a proverb is

### I. Wise women in Proverbs

descriptions of wise women:

- Pro 11:16a—A **gracious** woman attains honor...
- Pro 19:14b—...a **prudent** wife is from the LORD.
- Pro 31:10, 30—An **excellent** wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels. ... [30] Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, But a woman who **fears the LORD**, she shall be praised.

two important characteristics of the wise:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

- Pro 8:33—**Heed instruction** and be wise, **And do not neglect it.**
- Pro 9:8—Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you, **Reprove a wise man and he will love you.**
- Pro 10:8—**The wise of heart will receive commands**, But a babbling fool will be ruined.
- Pro 15:31—**He whose ear listens to the life-giving reproof Will dwell among the wise.**
- Pro 19:20—**Listen to counsel and accept discipline**, That you may be wise the rest of your days.
- Pro 9:9—**Give instruction to a wise man and he will be still wiser**, Teach a righteous man and he will increase his learning.
- Pro 8:34—Blessed is the man who **listens to me** (wisdom)...

- Gal 5:22-23—But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

## 2.

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- Pro 16:23—**The heart of the wise instructs his mouth** and adds persuasiveness to his lips.
- Luk 6:45—**The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good**; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for **his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart**.
- Pro 10:19— When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, **But he who restrains his lips is wise**.
- Pro 12:18—There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, **But the tongue of the wise brings healing**.
- Pro 13:14— The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, To turn aside from the snares of death.
- Pro 14:3—In the mouth of the foolish is a rod for his back, **But the lips of the wise will protect them**.
- Pro 15:2—**The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable**, But the mouth of fools spouts folly.
- Pro 15:7—**The lips of the wise spread knowledge**, But the hearts of fools are not so.
- Pro 25:12—Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold Is **a wise reprover** to a listening ear.

## II. Foolish women in Proverbs

### 1.

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- Pro 2:16-17—To deliver you from the strange woman, From the **adulteress** who flatters with her words; That leaves the companion of her youth And forgets the covenant of her God...
- Pro 5:3-6—For the lips of an **adulteress** drip honey And smoother than oil is her speech; 4 But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword. 5 Her feet go down to death, Her steps take hold of Sheol. 6 She does not ponder the path of life; Her ways are unstable, she does not know it.

- Pro 6:24-26—To keep you from the evil woman, From the smooth tongue of the **adulteress**. 25 Do not desire her beauty in your heart, Nor let her capture you with her eyelids. 26 For on account of a harlot one is reduced to a loaf of bread, And an **adulteress** hunts for the precious life.
- Pro 7:5, 10-21—That they may keep you from an **adulteress**, From the foreigner who flatters with her words. ... 10 And behold, a woman comes to meet him, Dressed as a harlot and cunning of heart. 11 She is boisterous and rebellious, Her feet do not remain at home; 12 She is now in the streets, now in the squares, And lurks by every corner. 13 So she seizes him and kisses him And with a brazen face she says to him: 14 " I was due to offer peace offerings; Today I have paid my vows. 15 "Therefore I have come out to meet you, To seek your presence earnestly, and I have found you. 16 "I have spread my couch with coverings, With colored linens of Egypt. 17 "I have sprinkled my bed With myrrh, aloes and cinnamon. 18 "Come, let us drink our fill of love until morning; Let us delight ourselves with caresses. 19 "For my husband is not at home, He has gone on a long journey; 20 He has taken a bag of money with him, At the full moon he will come home." 21 With her many persuasions she entices him; With her flattering lips she seduces him.
- Pro 22:14—The mouth of an **adulteress** is a deep pit; He who is cursed of the LORD will fall into it.
- Pro 23:27-28—For a **harlot** is a deep pit And an adulterous woman is a narrow well. 28 Surely she lurks as a robber, And increases the faithless among men.
- Pro 30:20—This is the way of an **adulterous** woman: She eats and wipes her mouth, And says, "I have done no wrong."

2.

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- Pro 10:4—Poor is he who works with a **negligent** hand, But the hand of the diligent makes rich.
- Pro 6:9-11—How long will you lie down, O **sluggard**? When will you arise from your sleep? 10 "A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest"-- 11 Your poverty will come in like a vagabond And your need like an armed man.
- Pro 12:24—The hand of the diligent will rule, But **the slack hand** will be put to forced labor.
- Pro 19:24—The **sluggard** buries his hand in the dish, But will not even bring it back to his mouth.
- Pro 21:25—The desire of the **sluggard** puts him to death, For his hands refuse to work...

**Warnings directed at women:**

- Pro 19:13—A foolish son is destruction to his father, And the **contentions** of a wife are a constant dripping.
- Pro 21:9, 19—It is better to live in a corner of a roof Than in a house shared with a **contentious** woman. ... 19 It is better to live in a desert land Than with a **contentious and vexing** woman.
- Pro 25:24—It is better to live in a corner of the roof Than in a house shared with a **contentious** woman.
- Pro 27:15-16—A constant dripping on a day of steady rain And a **contentious** woman are alike; 16 He who would restrain her restrains the wind, And grasps oil with his right hand.

**Contentiousness in Israel:**

- Ex 17:1-7; Nu 20:1-13—Israel's contentions=testing God
  - wrong response to need
  - breeds other sin, e.g., grumbling, fear, accusations
  - fails to acknowledge what is true about God and His faithfulness

**Contention is stirred up by...**

- Anger
  - Pro 29:22—A man of wrath stirs up strife, & one given to anger causes much transgression.
  - Pro 15:18—A hot tempered man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger quiets contention.
- Arrogance
  - Pro 28:25—A greedy man stirs up strife, but the one who trusts in the Lord will be enriched.
- Gossip
  - Pro 26:20—For lack of wood the fire goes out, & where there is no whisperer, quarreling ceases.

**Contention creates...**

- Defensiveness
  - Pro 18:19—contentions are like the bars of a citadel.

### **Warnings directed at the home:**

- Pro 17:1—Better is a dry morsel and quietness with it Than a **house** full of feasting with **strife**.
- Pro 21:9—It is better to live in a corner of a roof Than in a **house** shared with a **contentious** woman.
- Pro 25:24—It is better to live in a corner of the roof Than in a **house** shared with a **contentious** woman.

### **Gospel hope for contentious women:**

- 1 Pe 2:24
- Ro 4:7-8

### **Identifying specific ways we may build up or tear down our homes:**

Pr. 31:27; Ro 12:2

- Gen 2:18—Am I being helpful with...  
WHAT I am saying? (Col 4:6)  
HOW I am saying it? (Pro 15:28)  
TO WHOM I am saying it?  
WHEN I am saying it? (Pro 15:23)
- Pro 31:12, 26—Are my words GOOD and BENEFICIAL? Will it bring harm? Is it wise? Is it kind? Does it promote understanding?
- Mat 5:23-24—Do I need to confess sin and seek forgiveness?
- Mat 7:3-5—Have I “taken the log out of my own eye” and repented?

## Contrasts to help evaluate--do my words “build up” or “tear down”?

I frequently express gratitude for the benefits that I have received from God & others. (Col 3:15)  
*I frequently grumble about having what I don't want or wanting what I don't have.*

I build others up with words of praise, appreciation, & admiration. (Eph 4:29)  
*I often hurt others with critical, belittling words. I am quick to point out the failures of others.*

I am quick to humble myself & seek forgiveness when I have wronged someone (Matt 5:23-24)  
*I tend to defend or justify myself rather than admitting when I am wrong.*

I am faithful in praying for God to work in others' lives (i.e., my husband, children, friends, parents, etc).  
*I spend more time talking to friends or counselors about the needs in the lives of those around me than I do in fervent, intercessory prayer on their behalf.*

When provoked, I generally respond with a gentle answer (Pro 15:1)  
*I am easily provoked & tend to respond with harsh words.*

## Fight the sin of contention by...

- Remembering God's character... He can only, ever, be kind & good.
- Always think the best....(1 Co 13:7) Love hopes all things.
- Don't underestimate your own sinfulness. (1 Tim 1:15, "It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.")
- Cultivate a heart of thankfulness (Col 3:15).
- Keep looking in Scripture for instruction in God-honoring speech (e.g., James 3:5; Ro 6:12-13; 1 Pe 2:23; etc.)

"Because you say I am a sinner, I will be righteous & saved....(because) I fly to Christ who has given himself for my sins. Therefore, Satan, you will not prevail against me when you try to terrify me by telling me how great my sins are...On the contrary, when you say I am a sinner, you give me armor & a weapon against yourself...for Christ died for sinners....You do not terrify me but comfort me immeasurably."

--Martin Luther

## RECOMMENDED READING: "Speaking Redemptively" by Paul David Tripp

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