

D2 – The Home: Building Up or Tearing Down? (Prov 14:1)

Wellspring Purpose and Disciplines:

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

Introduction:

Example of a proverb as a wise saying: Pr 16:7

Pr 12:18

Pr 18:21

1 Co 1:30

Pr 2:1-6

1. Wise Women in Proverbs

Descriptions of wise women:

a. Pr 11:16a – A **gracious** woman attains honor

b. Pr 19:14b – . . . a **prudent** wife is from the LORD

c. Pr 31:10, 30 – An **excellent** wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels . . . Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who **fears the LORD**, she shall be praised.

The wise woman _____well.

- a. Pr 8:33 – **Heed instruction** and be wise, **And do not neglect it.**
- b. Pr 9:8 – Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you, **Reprove a wise man and he will love you.**
- c. Pr 10:8 – **The wise of heart will receive commands,** But a babbling fool will be ruined.
- d. Pr 15:31 – **He whose ear listens to the life-giving reproof will dwell among the wise.**
- e. Pr 19:20 – **Listen to the counsel and accept discipline,** That you may be wise the rest of your days
- f. Pr 9:9 – **Give instruction to a wise man and he will be still wiser,** teach a righteous man and he will increase his learning.
- g. Pr 8:34 – Blessed is the man who **listens to me** (wisdom) . . .
- h. Ga 5:22-23 – But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control; against such thing there is no law.

The wise woman _____wisely..

- a. Pr 16:23 – **The heart of the wise instructs his mouth** and adds persuasiveness to his lips.
- b. Luke 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.**
- c. Pr 10:19 – When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, **But he who restrains his lips is wise.**
- d. Pr 12:19 – There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, **But the tongue of the wise brings healing.**
- e. Pr 13:14 – The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, To turn aside from the snare of death.
- f. Pr 14:3 – In the mouth of the foolish is a rod for his back, **But the lips of the wise will protect them.**

g. Pr15:2 – **The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable**, But the mouth of fools spouts folly.

h. Pr 15:7 – **The lips of the wise spread knowledge**, But the hearts of fools are not so.

i. Pr 25:12 – Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold is a **wise reprov**er to a listening ear.

2. Foolish Women in Proverbs

The foolish woman is _____.

a. Pr 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 . . .

b. Pr 5:3-6 – For the lips of an **adulteress** drip honey And smoother than oil is her speech; But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death, Her steps take hold of Sheol. She does not ponder the path of life; Her ways are unstable, she does not know it.

c. Pr 6:24-26 – To keep you from the evil woman, From the smooth tongue of the **adulteress**, Do not desire her beauty in your heart, Nor let her capture you with her eyelids. For on account of a harlot one is reduced to a loaf of bread, And an **adulteress** hunts for the precious life.

d. Pr 7:5, 10-21 – that they may keep you from an **adulteress**, From the foreigner who flatters with her words . . . And behold a woman comes to meet his, Dressed as a harlot and cunning of heart. She is boisterous and rebellious, Her feet do not remain at home, She is now in the streets, now in the squares, And lurks by every corner. So she seizes him and kisses him And with a brazen face she says to him “I was due to offer peace offerings; Today I have paid my vows. Therefore I have come out to meet you, To seek your presence earnestly, and I have found you. I have spread my couch with coverings, with colored lines of Egypt. I have sprinkled my bed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon. Come let us drink our fill of love until morning; Let us delight ourselves with caresses. For my husband is not at home, He has gone on a long journey; He has taken a bag of money with him, At the full moon he will come home.” With her many persuasions she entices him; With her flattering lips she seduces him.

e. Pr 22:14 – The mouth of an **adulteress** is a deep pit; He who is cursed of the LORD will fall into it.

f. Pr 23:27-28 – For a **harlot** is a deep pit And an adulteress woman is a narrow well. Surely she lurks as a robber, And increases the faithless among men.

g. Pr 30:20 – This is the way of an **adulterous** woman: She eats and wipes her mouth, And says, “I have done no wrong.”

The foolish woman is _____.

a. Pr 10:4 – Poor is he who works with a **negligent** hand, But the hand of the diligent makes rich.

b. Pr 6:9-11 – How long will you lie down, O **sluggard**? When will you arise from your sleep? “A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest.” Your poverty will come in like a vagabond And your need like an armed man.

c. Pr 12:24 – The hand of the diligent will rule, But the **slack hand** will be put to forced labor.

d. Pr 19:24 – The **sluggard** buries his hand in the dish, But will not even bring it back to his mouth.

e. Pr 21:25 – The desire of the **sluggard** puts him to death, For his hands refuse to work . . .

The foolish woman is _____.

Warnings directed at women:

a. Pr 19:13 – A foolish son is destruction to his father, And the **contentions** of a wife are a constant dripping.

b. Pr 21:9-19 – It is better to live in a corner of a roof Than a house shared with a **contentious** woman It is better to live in a desert land Than with a **contentious and vexing** woman.

c. Pr 25:24 – It is better to live in a corner of the roof Than in a house shared with a **contentious** woman.

d. Pr 27:15 -16 – A constant dripping on a day of steady rain And a **contentious** woman are alike; 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

- a. _____ does not excuse a

- b. Contentiousness _____ more sin.
- c. Complaining _____ to acknowledge what is _____ about God
and His _____.

Contention is stirred up by:

- a. Anger
Pr 29:22 – A man of wrath stirs up strife and one given to anger causes much transgression.

Pr 15:18 – A hot tempered man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger quiets contention.
- b. Arrogance
Pr 28:25 – A greedy man stirs up strife, but the one who trusts in the Lord will be enriched.
- c. Gossip
Pr 26:20 – For lack of wood the fire goes out and where there is no whisperer, quarreling ceases.

Contention creates:

- a. Defensiveness
Pr 18:19 – Contentions are like the bars of a citadel.

Warnings directed at the home:

- a. Pr 17:1 – Better is a dry morsel and quietness with it Than a **house** full of feasting with **strife**.
- b. Pr 21:0 – It is better to live in a corner of a roof Than in a **house** shared with a **contentious** woman.
- c. Pr 25:24 – It is better to live in a corner of the roof Than in a **house** shared with a **contentious** woman.

3. Speaking Redemptively / Forsaking Contention

a. Ga 5:13 – 6:2

b. Ja 4:1-2

Our mouths are meant to be instruments of righteousness as our hearts are in tune with God's heart.

4. 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 and 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 and 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 and seek forgiveness when I have wronged someone (Mt 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 (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 (Pr 15:1)
I am easily provoked and tend to respond with harsh words.

5. Fight the Sin of Contention by:

- a. Remembering God's character . . . He can only ever be kind and good
- b. Always think the best . . . (1 Co 13:7) Love hopes all things
- c. Don't underestimate your own sinfulness (1 Ti 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.")
- d. Cultivate a heart of thankfulness (Col 3:15)
- e. Keep looking in Scripture for instruction in God-honoring speech (Ja 3:5, Ro 6:12-13, 1 Pe 2:23)

6. Gospel Hope for Contentious Women

1 Pe 2:24 – He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds we are healed.