

## Two Paths – A Study of Proverbs 18

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Path to Destruction – Proverbs 2:12-19</b></p> <p>For [the] house [of the seductress] leads down to death and her paths to the spirits of the dead. None who go to her return or attain the paths of life.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Path of Righteousness – Proverbs 12:28</b></p> <p>In the way of righteousness there is life; along that path is immortality.</p>																				
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>is paved with Isolation - Proverbs 18:1</b></p> <p>A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>is paved with Christian Fellowship - Proverbs 27:17</b></p> <p>As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.</p>																				
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Set Apart from God – Romans 1:22-23</b></p> <p>They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Set Apart from the World - 1 Peter 1:14</b></p> <p>Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. Instead, as He who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; for it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”</p>																				
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Bad Fruit of Isolation – Proverbs 18</b> <b>Verses which refer to the causes or bad fruit of isolation</b></p> <table> <tr> <td>Foolish Tongue &amp; Ears</td><td>2,6,7,8,17</td></tr> <tr> <td>Broken Spirit</td><td>3,14a</td></tr> <tr> <td>Sloth</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr> <td>Destructive Wealth</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr> <td>Conceit</td><td>3,12a,13,19,23b</td></tr> </table>	Foolish Tongue & Ears	2,6,7,8,17	Broken Spirit	3,14a	Sloth	9	Destructive Wealth	11	Conceit	3,12a,13,19,23b	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Fruit of Fellowship – Proverbs 18</b> <b>Verses which refer to the causes or good fruit of fellowship</b></p> <table> <tr> <td>Wise Tongue &amp; Ears</td><td>4,10,15,20,21</td></tr> <tr> <td>Enduring Spirit</td><td>14b</td></tr> <tr> <td>Spiritual Gifts</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr> <td>Marriage</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr> <td>Humility</td><td>12b,23a</td></tr> </table>	Wise Tongue & Ears	4,10,15,20,21	Enduring Spirit	14b	Spiritual Gifts	16	Marriage	22	Humility	12b,23a
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Discipline of Isolation – 2 Peter 2:14</b></p> <p>They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children!</p> <p><b>From the verses in Proverbs, here are some characteristics or behaviors that train us in isolation:</b></p> <p>Self-centeredness, self-seeking, rejecting of wise counsel, foolishness, boasting, pride, contemptuousness, favoring wickedness, self-righteous, quick to speak, slothful, wealth, conceit, shameful behavior, making decisions without advice, arguing, disagreeable, false speaking, shutting off others, unfriendliness</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Discipline of Godliness – 1 Timothy 4:7-8</b></p> <p>Train yourself in godliness, for, while physical training is of some value, godliness is valuable in every way, holding promise for both present life and the life to come.</p> <p><b>From the verses in Proverbs, here are some characteristics or behaviors that train us in fellowship:</b></p> <p>Speaking God’s word/truth, righteousness, seeking God, humility, studying God’s word, prayer, worshiping, prudence, listening, using one’s God-given gifts, seeking intimate relationships with others, friendliness</p>																				

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mutual Isolation – Who do We Avoid?</b></p> <p>Romans 16:17-18 - I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.</p> <p>Jude 16-19 - These men are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage. But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires." These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.</p> <p>Romans 1:29-31 - They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless.</p> <p><b>From the verses above, here are some ways that we can identify the people who can drag us down into isolation – their characteristics, actions, positions or reputations:</b></p> <p>Divisive, smooth talk, flattery, science-only rationalization, grumblers, faultfinders, self-seeking, desiring evil, boastful, scoffers, cynics, following their own desires, divisive, gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant, creative in their evil, disobedient, senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fellowship in Christ – Who do We Gather Around Us?</b></p> <p>Romans 16:3-16</p> <p>Hebrews 10:24-25 - And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.</p> <p>1 Corinth 11:1 Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.</p> <p>2 Timothy 4:2 - Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction.</p> <p>Rev 4:4 - Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders.</p> <p>Hebrews 12:1 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses.</p> <p><b>From the verses above, here are some ways that we can identify the people who can lift us up into fellowship – their characteristics, actions, positions or reputations:</b></p> <p>Sacrificing for others, servants, ministering to others, church officers, those of godly reputation, Christians-saints, people who go to church, co-workers in Christ, those who engage in spiritual warfare, those seeking Christ, people who host teachers in their homes for Christ, encouragers, correctors, patient, teachers, witnesses for Christ.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Strong Godly Relationships Grow Only When They are Fed - Paul's Lessons in Friendship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We must listen to our friends – Romans 15:14</li> <li>• We must pray for our friends – 2 Thessalonians 1:11</li> <li>• We must teach our friends – Romans 15:25</li> <li>• We must exhort and encourage our friends – Romans 15:14-15</li> <li>• We must serve our friends – 2 Corinthians 11:7-9</li> <li>• We must speak affectionately to our friends – Romans 16:1-2</li> </ul>	