



Resist the Enticement of Sinners

Proverbs 1:8-19

Living wisely requires listening to the guidance of godly parents (8-9).

- *Godly parents instruct and teach their children in living wisely (8).*
- *Living wisely for the Lord is of great value and distinction in life (9).*

The call of the father to his son was to hear and to not turn away from the instruction and the teaching of his parents. The context of these verses is within the covenant community of Israel. Therefore, the very implication of these verses is that the parents would be Jews, who were believers in the one, true God. While not perfect, godly parents are a blessing. Their faith sets them apart, and their years and experience offer instruction and teaching for their children. Godly parents instruct and teach their children in living wisely, which is necessarily connected to living for the Lord. God's message to us today is the same! Living wisely requires listening to the guidance of godly parents. Parents who are believers must take this responsibility seriously and wisely, instructing and teaching their children in living wisely for the Lord. Children who listen and learn gain much in their lives. Solomon likened this response of a child to a graceful garland and pendants around one's neck. These things have the same purpose as jewelry still does today! It adds beauty and distinction to the one who wears it. It displays something of value that distinguishes the one who wears it. Nothing is of more value and distinction in life than living wisely for the Lord!

1. Parents, are you instructing and teaching your children to live wisely for the Lord? How do we do this effectively? Why is your personal time with the Lord in his Word and in prayer important to your ability to instruct and teach your children? How are you doing this? Why is time with the Lord with your children (your family) important to instruction and teaching in living wisely? How are you doing this?
2. Children, are you listening to the instruction and teaching of your parents? If wisdom is knowledge that's rightly applied – which takes learning and experience – what do your parents have more of than you? Why is it important to listen to the godly counsel of believing parents? How are you doing this? Do you need to start doing this?
3. How has godly counsel of parents been a value and distinction in your life?

Living wisely demands resisting the enticement of sinners (10-16).

- *The enticement of sin often promises easy reward at the expense of others (11-14).*
- *Living wisely means standing firm when the enticement of sin comes calling (15-16).*

A key to living wisely is resisting the enticement of sinners. In the following verses, Solomon's primary command to his son was "do not consent" to the enticement of sinners! The reason why this is so important is because of the end result of sin, which is destruction. The wisdom of Solomon is important to understand. The enticement to sin is simple. It's always the same. The enticement of sin often promises easy reward at the expense of others. Whether it's murder, theft, a lie, or adultery, sin promises an easy reward. Murder eliminates your enemy. Theft brings possession of something that you didn't have to work for or buy. A lie gives an advantage or protection that's not deserved. Adultery and sexual immorality bring sexual pleasure outside of the commitment and responsibilities of marriage. All of these, however, are gained at the expense of others. Murder comes at the expense of another's life and the damage done to the family and friends left behind.



Theft comes at the expense of the owner of the thing that was stolen, who is the very one who worked for and paid for the item that was stolen. A lie comes at the expense of the one who is lied to, who is offering trust, friendship, etc. Adultery comes at the expense of the spouse who is cheated on. This is the reality of sin, which is why living wisely means standing firm when the enticement of sin comes calling!

1. What are some ways you have been enticed by sinners in your life? How did these enticements offer an easy reward? How would these enticements come at the expense of others? Share testimonies.
2. Use the BlueLetterBible app to do a word study on “consent” in verse 10. What does this mean? What did Solomon mean when he said “do not consent” to the enticement of sinners?
3. How does verse 15 relate to the command in verse 10? What does it mean to “walk in the way” and to “hold back your foot” when it comes to sin? How do you do this? How does a parent’s instruction help to give wisdom at times when sin entices?
4. Are you dealing with an enticement to sin right now? What is it? Share, and pray for one another.

Living wisely involves seeing the self-destructive path of sin (17-19).

- *Sinners foolishly trap themselves in their sin (17-18).*
- *Greed takes away the life of its possessor (19).*

An average songbird’s brain is probably about the size of an English pea, but it has the sense to be wary when it sees a net set out that has been used to catch other birds. Comparatively, the human brain is much larger and far more complex. However, sinners often don’t have the sense of a songbird when it comes to sin. The net and ambush they set is for themselves. Sin is always that way! The wages of sin is death, and the result of sin is always destruction. Satan kills, steals, and destroys, and sinners foolishly trap themselves in their sin. In fact, greed takes away the life of its possessor. This is the self-destructive path of sin, and living wisely involves seeing and understanding this deadly reality.

1. How do you like the comparison of a sinner with a bird? What does that say about sin? What does it remind us about the sinful human heart? How could *anyone* fall into this trap that *everyone* falls into?
2. Do you have a testimony of how sin ended up trapping you? You thought that sin was going to give you something you wanted, but it ended up taking something away. Share testimonies.
3. How does greed take away the life of its possessor? What does verse 19 mean? Have you ever seen this or experienced it?
4. Do you see the self-destructive path of sin? Discuss. Do you know someone who needs to see this reality in their life? How can you share these truths from Proverbs 1 with that person this week? Pray for them now!