

May 25, 2016
“Avoid Destructive Behaviors”
Various Proverbs

I. Alcohol and Drug Abuse (20:1; 23:19-21)

“Wine is a mocker, beer is a brawler, and whoever staggers because of them is not wise.”
(20:1)

A. Mocker – *“luts”* – a fool maker (Satan’s hiss, Gen 3:1)

B. Brawler – *“hamah”* – to be noisy, warring, to be in an uproar. It exacerbates your emotions and reactions.

C. Stagers – *“shaghagh”* – to waiver, wander, cause to transgress, and seduction. It is deceptive and sly.

D. Not wise – *“chakham”* – an unintelligent attitude toward the experiences of life (2 Peter 2:15-22).

II. Abusive Relationships

A. Association with the Angry

“Don’t make friends with an angry man, and don’t be a companion of a hot-tempered man, or you will learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare.” (22:24-25) James instructs us that **“Man’s anger does not accomplish God’s righteousness.”** (1:20) Gary Smalley calls unrestrained anger “a major destroyer of relationships.”

B. Associating with the Argumentative

“To start a conflict is to release a flood; stop the dispute before it breaks out.” (17:14)
“One who loves to offend loves strife one who builds a high threshold invites injury.”
(17:19) Too many young women have invited catastrophe by being attracted to the “bad boys,” angry, argumentative and selfish individuals who leave a trail of conflict and strife from broken relationships.

C. Associating with Fools

“Like snow in summer and rain at harvest, honor is inappropriate for a fool.” (26:1) A **“fool”** is one who won’t change and learn from mistakes and wise counsel. Association (**honor**) is not only **inappropriate**, it can be disastrous.

D. Associating with the Unreliable

“Trusting an unreliable person in a difficult time is like a rotten tooth or a faltering foot.” (25:19) Security is one of the two significant needs that we all seek. Ultimately it comes from trusting God. However, placing your trust in someone who continually lets you down is like trying to walk on ice with slippery soled shoes (**faltering foot**).

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