

Scripture Text

Proverbs 31:10-12, 31:30, 19:14, 14:21, 18:1

Context

The book of Proverbs gives 21st century Christians wisdom for their lives. It is part of God's plan to redeem man by providing the "skill in the art of godly living". The book of Proverbs is thematic in scope and is widely regarded as the pinnacle of the bible's wisdom literature. It assumes and builds upon the law and prophets, but goes beyond them in training the reader to live wisely in a practical 'how to' way.

Big Idea

Wisdom in dating can only happen when we understand the purpose of both dating and marriage. In Proverbs, this is tied to us living lives of increasing wisdom as we learn to walk before God in his paths. Once we understand their purpose we are able to conduct ourselves in the fear of the Lord which is the beginning of wisdom. Christ comes to save us from the consequences of our sin, rescue us from our low dating ambitions, and empower us to live out our relationships with godly wisdom.

Sermon Outline

1. Proverbs shows us the kind of marriage we should desire
2. Proverbs shows us the kind of partner we should desire
3. Proverbs points to a better hope of eternal love to heal hearts
4. Proverbs gives us wisdom in the dating years

Ice-breaker Question

Why did you get married? / Why do you want to get married?
/ Why do think people want to get married?

Observation and Meaning

Let's read Proverbs 31:10-12, 31:30, 19:14

1. What does our Scripture texts teach us about the biblical purpose and nature of marriage? (v31:10-12)
2. What criteria should we be looking for in a future spouse or what characteristics should we be affirming in our spouse? (v31:30)
3. Why do we often place less emphasis on godly characteristics? (Group Sharing)

Let's read Proverbs 14.12, 15:22, 18:1, 28:18

4. What are the warnings and advice given to us in the texts we just read? (v14.12, 15:22, 18.1, 28.18)

Getting to Christ

1. How does knowing Jesus change our views and priorities of dating?
2. How does Proverbs 19:14 encourage you?

Application

1. How has Proverbs challenged your dating process/ How has Proverbs affected the way you counsel those who are dating?
2. Discuss how we can better serve and love people who are dating in our church community.

Guide for Study Leaders

Use the C.O.M.A. (Context, Observation, Meaning, Application) method to work through the biblical text.

Context

Pay attention to the surrounding verses, paragraphs, chapters, events, etc. to see how this passage fits within the context of this particular book of the Bible.

Note how this passage fits within the larger storyline of the whole Bible, i.e. how God is saving a people through Jesus Christ to live under his rule in his place.

Observation & Meaning

Make careful observations of the biblical text. Notice details such as linking words (eg. "for", "if", "therefore"), repetition, dialogue, narrative, OT quotations, etc.

To understand the meaning of the biblical text, we need to discern the author's purpose or intent: Why is the biblical author writing this?

Helpful questions to ask include:

Who is writing and to whom?

What is the situation of the author and of the readers?

Are we made aware of any problems that need to be addressed?

Are there any repeated themes, or a single idea that holds everything together?

Application

Apply God's word to the heart. Move beyond merely addressing circumstances and behaviour by asking good "heart" questions. For example: Why do we do what we do? What do we really desire?

Always connect the gospel to application. For example, what difference does knowing Christ make to our obedience to God?

Ask what the passage teaches us about God, ourselves, salvation in Christ, the church, the world, etc.