



# FIRST BAPTIST of Hayden

**Proverbs**  
**The Proverbs of Solomon**  
**Chapters 9-21**  
**05/03/2023**



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## **Introduction:**

Solomon does not mind insulting his readers, or at least the reader who is foolish. In chapter 11, the beautiful woman without discretion is like a pig that has a gold ring in its snout. It doesn't fit, and it devalues the ring as if it is worth nothing.

Now, in chapter 12, he will make sure that we understand that wicked behavior is stupid behavior.

In verses 1-3, we see the contrast between the wise and the wicked, the wise has knowledge, the wicked is stupid.

In verses 4-11, he will give us 8 proverbs on the blessings and the banes of domestic life. Marry a bad woman, you are stupid, marry a good woman, you are wise, and she is a crown to your head.

Verses 12-22 offer Solomon's readers, the virtues and faults within civil relationships. Depriving someone of what they have worked for and earned is wicked, and it is stupid.

And in the last part, verses 23-28, we will find that being lazy is stupid, it leads to anxiety, trust in the wrong person, and a general sense of being lost.

We will look at the second section tonight, specifically about men.

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**Message:****1. The Way a Man Thinks:**

Proverbs 12:5 (ESV): *5 The thoughts of the righteous are just; the counsels of the wicked are deceitful.*

We live in a day when wicked counsel for men is an epidemic. Young men have accepted the “truth” that they must become more effeminate and act more like women. As a result, many men no longer work a job or can hold a job. Schools have been restructured over the past century to educate girls rather than boys. The “Boy Crisis” is a topic being discussed within the education system because young men are struggling to complete basic education requirements, and far fewer who graduate are going on to earn a college degree. These boys are being diagnosed with ADD and ADHD far more than girls.

Boys (13%) are more likely to be diagnosed with ADHD than girls (6%).

As one writer for the New York Times said, *“It is hard to expect that a young boy can sit still for eight hours a day at a desk. Yet again, it is hard to expect that anyone can sit still at a desk for eight hours a day for eighteen years. Many teachers relay to parents that their sons show signs of attention deficit disorder or learning disabilities, but is this really the case? Or can our boys simply not meet the same behavioral standards as girls?”*

Boys are told that they are defective, (not exactly like that, but the sentiment is there) because they are not like the girls. Sitting still is almost impossible for boys and for certain boys with high energy. There is less and less empathy for his inability to remain still for long periods of time and to focus his mind on what is being taught.

Add to that, the reality that fewer men teach, and dads are not involved in many boys' lives; so, the boy crisis continues to grow. There is no advocate who understands what it is to be a boy and how to grow up and become a man.

Let's take a look at two simple things that most of us as men can do. First, a good handshake. Women don't think about that, at least most don't. But I've taught my sons, and now my grandsons, how to look someone in the eye when they meet a new person, take their hand and shake it firmly. There are too many who have a limp fish handshake or an overpowering handshake. Learning how to meet another person and do it well is part of becoming a man. Secondly, I also taught my sons to ask permission before taking a girl out on a date. Go meet the girl's dad, even if she doesn't want you to, shake his hand, look him in the eye and ask his permission.

Learning about the authorities that we encounter in life is a big part of growing into adulthood and learning to be a man. That takes engagement with a father, that requires a dad who is in relationship with his sons. But there are so many dads who are absent from their wives and their children.

Men like our activities, our sports and fishing, and racing; you name it. We enjoy tinkering in the shop; but do we tinker in our children's lives?

Satan is at work in the heart of men today. Men have chosen their recreation to satisfy their sense of manhood; they have chosen pornography to satisfy their sexual drive; they have chosen drugs or alcohol to dull the sense of pain or loss, or failure they may feel by not measuring up to whatever standard may be in their minds regarding manhood.

The effect is that men have checked out of the home and left the work of raising a godly generation to the mothers. Mothers are not equipped to do what God intended for a married couple to do: raise children together, as unique individuals, male and female.

However, boys and girls need a dad, and women need a man in their lives; but men have listened to the deception of wicked counsel.

Did you know that a girl who grows up fatherless will hit puberty and young adulthood at least a year sooner than her counterpart who is growing up with a dad in the home?

If a young man grows up without a father, he will likely develop a genetic condition that will shorten his life; the DNA telomeres do not form to full length. (These are the small endings of a DNA strand that protects and hold the ends of the DNA strand together and prevent it from sticking to other DNA strands.)

Men are abandoning the home in record numbers. We have been walking away from our responsibilities, and the generations are suffering for it.

The rise of LGBTQ identification among the younger generations is doubling each generation and can be attributed to the loss of masculine models in the home.

Americans' Self-Identification as LGBT, by Generation

	LGBT	Straight/Heterosexual	No response
	%	%	%
Generation Z (born 1997-2003)	20.8	75.7	3.5
Millennials (born 1981-1996)	10.5	82.5	7.1
Generation X (born 1965-1980)	4.2	89.3	6.5
Baby boomers (born 1946-1964)	2.6	90.7	6.8
Traditionalists (born before 1946)	0.8	92.2	7.1

GALLUP, 2021

Younger men are taking on the more feminine role of nurturing the infant rather than the traditional role of provider and protector.

Because the mother has the closest relationship with the newborn, new fathers report feeling alienated from both their wives and their children. To put it in one man's terms, *"It destroyed our marriage."*

Generations are at stake because there are too few godly men in the home. Young people are rejecting their religious upbringing and abandoning the church because “Jesus doesn’t matter.” Dads have raised their children seeing the hypocrisy of a “Sunday Dad vs. Dad the rest of the week.” Because dads are not godly before their families, we are seeing generations plummet into darkness.

A godly heart produces godly thoughts and intentions.

Go back to verse 5, “*The thoughts of the righteous are just.*” The word thought here means intentions. We need fathers and husbands who are just and right in their thinking and not selfish, narcissistic, and double minded.

Solomon was writing to his son who needed guidance to become a man of God, a man of integrity, and character. The shame is that Rehoboam saw his dad forsake the very character qualities he wrote about in Proverbs.

As a result of Solomon’s failure, the kingdom would be divided between Rehoboam and one of his political leaders, Jeroboam.

1 Kings 11:26–35 (ESV): 26 *Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephraimite of Zeredah, a servant of Solomon, whose mother’s name was Zeruah, a widow, also lifted up his hand against the king. 27 And this was the reason why he lifted up his hand against the king. Solomon built the Millo, and closed up the breach of the city of David his father.*



28 *The man Jeroboam was very able, and when Solomon saw that the young man was industrious he gave him charge over all the forced labor of the house of Joseph.*

29 *And at that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him on the road. Now Ahijah had dressed himself in a new garment, and the two of them were alone in the open country.*

30 *Then Ahijah laid hold of the new garment that was on him, and tore it into twelve pieces. 31 And he said to Jeroboam, "Take for yourself ten pieces, for thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Behold, I am about to tear the kingdom from the hand of Solomon and will give you ten tribes 32 (but he shall have one tribe, for the sake of my servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city that I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel), 33 because they have forsaken me and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of Moab, and Milcom the god of the Ammonites, and they have not walked in my ways, doing what is right in my sight and keeping my statutes and my rules, as David his father did.*

34 *Nevertheless, I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand, but I will make him ruler all the days of his life, for the sake of David my servant whom I chose, who kept my commandments and my statutes. 35 But I will take the kingdom out of his son's hand and will give it to you, ten tribes.*

Like other Israelites, Solomon's thinking had been corrupted. Because his mind was no longer thinking in a godly and righteous way, he made decisions that would eventually negatively impact his family and the nation.

Our thinking must be right, or our actions and our lives will not be. Too often, we tend to blame the other people in our lives.

So, we need to ask ourselves and be honest as men of God; what deceptive counsel am I listening to, and how am I living before my family?

## **2. The Way a Man Acts:**

Proverbs 12:6 (ESV): *6 The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood, but the mouth of the upright delivers them.*

## **3. The Way a Man Goes:**

Proverbs 12:7 (ESV): *7 The wicked are overthrown and are no more, but the house of the righteous will stand.*

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## **Conclusion:**

We don't have enough time for the last two points so we will pick that back up next time.