

Sermon Notes

The Jesus Ethic In A Groaning World

Proverbs 1:8-33

Wise parents and the two paths of Proverbs: the wise vs. the fool.

- 1) The _____ son fears God and obeys. The foolish son refuses.
- 2) Wisdom is the ethic of godliness. _____ is the ethic of godlessness.

What is folly? It is the Hebrew word *ivveleth* meaning _____ perversion, rejection of correction, refusal to fear God and obey.

What folly, the ethic of godlessness, says and does:

- 1:11 "let us lie in wait for blood... _____ the innocent without reason"
1:13 "we shall find precious goods, we shall fill _____ houses with plunder"
1:16 "their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood"

The personification of folly, the godless ethic: folly is the forbidden _____, the adulteress. (2:16-19, 5:3-4, 6:24, 7:10-12)

The ethic of godlessness always involves in some way wrongfully taking what rightfully belongs to someone else. It includes such things as:

Robbery, murder: 1:13	Withholding child discipline: 13:24
Financial oppression: 14:31	Bad employees: 14:23
Dishonest business: 11:1	Bad employers: 11:24
Bribery/pay-offs: 17:23	Dishonest witness: 6:19
Unjust legal rulings: 18:5	Slander: 16:28
Perverting justice: 24:23-24	Harsh words that stir strife: 15:1
Corrupt leaders: 29:12	Revenge: 24:28-29
Negligent management: 10:4	Animal cruelty: 12:10

The godless ethic fills the earth with misery and groaning on every level.

- 11:11 - the city and entire _____ is destroyed.
14:1 - the _____ and family are destroyed.
Romans 8:22-23 - the entire creation _____.

The solution for the world's groaning is found in Proverbs - wisdom.

Wisdom is given personal qualities; this is Jesus in Proverbs. (v.20-23)

The ethic of Jesus always includes:

Generous to the poor: 19:17	Good child discipline: 29:17
Defends the poor: 29:7	Good employees: 22:29
Honest business affairs: 16:11	Good employers: 3:27
Refuses bribery/pay-offs: 15:27	Honest words: 12:17
Just legal rulings: 21:15	Words that heal: 12:18
Upholding justice: 28:5	Words that make peace: 16:7
Good leaders: 8:15-16	Not angry but forgiving: 19:11
Good management: 21:5	Caring for animals: 12:10

The ethic of Jesus brings joy and soothes the groaning on every level.

29:2-4 the city and entire nation flourishes.

14:1 the home and the family flourishes.

So what should we do?

- The unsaved must be born again.
- Followers of Jesus must rest in Him, their perfect wisdom. (John 15)
- Pray for and pursue the ethic of Jesus to be lived out in our world.
- Pray for and pursue winning the lost to faith in Jesus. (Prov 11:30)