



TOGETHER

April 25, 2021 | Wisdom for Relationships from the Book of Proverbs (Part 2) | Reggie Roberson

WARM-UP QUESTION: What are the consequences of isolation?

READ: Proverbs 18:1

FOCUS: Reject isolation and embrace community.

OBSERVE:

Isolation is unwise.

- Proverbs 18:1 says people who isolate themselves "rebel against all sound wisdom." Wisdom is the ability to live well in the world according to God's revelation.
- We also see in Proverbs 9:10 that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." The fear of the Lord means that we exalt God and His words above everything else. So when we isolate ourselves, we are rebelling against God and His wisdom for healthy living.

Isolation is selfish.

- At the root of isolation is self-centeredness, which is also the root of all sin.
- In Genesis 3, we see the result of sin—broken relationships with God and others. Adam and Eve isolated themselves by hiding from God and blaming one another. This pattern of broken relationships and isolation continues today when we make ourselves and our interests our chief pursuit in life.

Reject isolation and embrace community.

- How should we respond to this Proverb? First, we must deal with our isolation (or separation) from God by repenting and acknowledging Him as our Lord and Savior. We can then cultivate our relationship with God by regularly reading the Bible and praying daily.
- Second, we must deal with isolating ourselves from others. We must resolve to overcome offense and be intentional about gathering together with other Christians, even when it is difficult.

REFLECT:

- In what ways, if any, have you let isolation influence your life?
- Are you committed to living in Christian community? If so, how is this displayed in your life?

TAKE ACTION:

- Meditate on Proverbs 18:1 and ask God to forgive you for the ways you have isolated yourself.
- Consider what steps you need to take to pursue healthy relationships. Begin implementing them this week.

PRAY:

God, thank You for being an example of what healthy community looks like through the Trinity. We are sorry for the ways we have isolated ourselves in the pursuit of selfish desires. Please help us remain rooted and grounded in You and committed to living in healthy Christian community. In Jesus' name, amen.