

How to keep from messing up your life

Pastor Steve Cornell

Introduction: The world is a dangerous place

1. Avoid bad company: Don't be gullible---there are people you need to stay away from.

Proverbs 1:10-16

“My son, if sinners entice you, do not give in to them. If they say, ‘Come along with us; let's lie in wait for someone's blood, let's waylay some harmless soul; let's swallow them alive, like the grave, and whole, like those who go down to the pit; we will get all sorts of valuable things and fill our houses with plunder; throw in your lot with us, and we will share a common purse’--my son, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their paths; for their feet rush into sin, they are swift to shed blood.”

Proverbs 2:11-15

“Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you. Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse, who leave the straight paths to walk in dark ways, who delight in doing wrong and rejoice in the perverseness of evil, whose paths are crooked and who are devious in their ways.”

Proverbs 13:20

“He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.”

Proverbs 22:24-25

“Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared.”

Proverbs 23:20-21

“Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat, for drunkards and gluttons become poor, and drowsiness clothes them in rags.”

1Corinthians 15:33

“Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

2 Corinthians 6:14-15

“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and

Topic:
Four Principles of
Proverbs

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wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?

2. Accept correction & discipline (or Don't be a fool)

See: Proverbs 1:20-2:2

Proverbs 3:11-12

“My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline and do not resent his rebuke, because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.”

Proverbs 15:5

“A fool spurns his father's discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence.”

Proverbs 15:31-33

“He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise. He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding. The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.”

(See description of a fool)

3. Abstain from Sexual temptation

Proverbs 5,6,7

There are certain types of women & men that you should avoid (5:1-14;6:20-27)

4. Allow God to be central to your life

Proverbs 3--Five essentials for walking with God

- 1) Trust God with all your heart
- 2) Acknowledge God in all your ways
- 3) Fear the Lord
- 4) Honor God with your wealth
- 5) Don't resent God when He disciplines you