

## **Proverbs 1:1-7 Introduction and Theme to Proverbs**

<sup>1</sup>The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel: <sup>2</sup>To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight <sup>3</sup>to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity; <sup>4</sup>to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth—<sup>5</sup>Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance, <sup>6</sup>to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles. <sup>7</sup>The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. *ESV*

### **Fear of the lord is the beginning of knowledge/wisdom**

- Pay attention to beginnings and endings in literary works!  
*Proverbs 31:30 Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. ESV*
- Fear of the Lord is “worshipful submission” and “reverent obedience”  
“...A wise person seeks to please the God who rules heaven and earth, both for the joy of bringing him pleasure and from a fear of bringing displeasure.” Koptak
- Proverbs talks about God as Lord!  
“Fear of God requires that we remove ourselves from the center of authority in our self made universe.” Koptak
- God speaks authoritatively over all things! The Lord Jesus!
- Fearing God involves reverence, awe, respect, majesty, awareness, worship...  
Phil. 2:12 Told to work out our salvation with fear and trembling  
Isaiah 6:5 Woe to me I’ve come undone...
- Reverence and Fear of God is extremely important.

**Current state of culture: (Can be true of Christians)  
High view of people and their opinions and low view of God.**

Created an idolatry— a picture of God that does not correspond with God.



Comfortable to come up with a concept of God and his grandpa approval of our selfish desires and esteeming our opinions etc...

Do you see how your concept of God and your life are tied together? Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom---wisdom begins with a right understanding of God. What you begin with ends up reaping a style of living.

### **Negative effects of not fearing the Lord.**

*Proverbs 1:29-31*

*<sup>29</sup>Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD, <sup>30</sup>would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof, <sup>31</sup>therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way, and have their fill of their own devices. ESV*

- **Hate knowledge** (if you don't read the scriptures you hate knowledge)
- **Eat the fruit of their ways**...your life will reflect the fact that you hate knowledge and God.
- **Have their fill of their own devices**
- **Hot headed and reckless**

*Proverbs 14:16—<sup>16</sup>A wise man fears the LORD and shuns evil, but a fool is hotheaded and reckless. NIV*

- **Envy sinners**

*Proverbs 23:17 <sup>17</sup>Let not your heart envy sinners, but continue in the fear of the LORD all the day. ESV*

- **Fear of man will be a snare**---others opinion of you will dictate your life.

### **Beginning of wisdom—think lowly of ourselves and highly of God.**

- Posture of humility and teachability.
- Understand the fear of the Lord and gain knowledge of him and that leads to wisdom.



- Popular Christianity has a really different understanding of who God is.
- Many have no fear and reverence of God.... so they don't really know God.
- God has become buddy, pal and dude---"God is my co-pilot"

### **Positive effects of fearing God that begins wisdom:**

- **Avoids evil**

*16:6 <sup>6</sup>Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for; through the fear of the LORD a man avoids evil. NIV*

- **Hate evil**

*8:13 <sup>13</sup>The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil.; .....ESV*

- **Live longer, better quality of life, honor**

*3:16 Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. ESV*

*Proverbs 14:27*

*The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life ,that one may turn away from the snares of death. ESV*

- **Teaches a man wisdom and humility comes before honor.**

*Proverbs 15:33*

*The fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom, and humility comes before honor. ESV*

### **Why should we fear God?**

**God is zealous for his glory and will not share his dominion.**

**Did Jesus ever tell us to fear God? \_\_\_\_\_**

*Luke 12:4-5 <sup>4</sup>"I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. <sup>5</sup>But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him! ESV*

Isaiah—Jesus came with wisdom and knowledge and the fear of the



lord was on him.

**When you sin who are you sinning against? \_\_\_\_\_**

**When you are saved, who are you saved from? \_\_\_\_\_**

Rev. 14!

**If you misunderstand God, you misunderstand everything—If you have no fear of God you have no knowledge!**

**God who is Lord, who is zealous for his glory and kingdom, conquers and defeats his enemies!**

**Why does God save us?**

High view of man— because God loves us.

High view of God—Because He is zealous for His glory and us being saved gives Him glory!

**Who killed Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_**

The Father is ultimately responsible.

If God hates our sin and rebellion so much that he will kill God the son...shouldn't we fear him?

**Low view of God results in:** no commands, rather suggestions.

Lack of reverence and respect and fear of God.

God accepts human sin.

God and his word becomes low, we become very high.

Despise knowledge...ignore anything that causes us to have to change.

**Does God hate? \_\_\_\_\_**

Psalm 5:5 Hates all those who have done evil.

Proverbs

8:13 hate evil

13:5 what is false

6:16-19 *six things the lord hates.. haughty eyes, etc...*

<sup>16</sup>*There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him:*

<sup>17</sup>*haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,*

<sup>18</sup>*a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, <sup>19</sup>a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers. ESV*



You should fear and be careful with God!  
I would not play around with the God of the Bible.

Atheists are not the challenge, instead having a picture of God to accommodate your desired way of life is the issue.

**We can escape this because God also loves!**

Must start with the Fear of God! The love of God means more when we understand more.

**God loves:**

*Prov. 3:12 ... 12for the LORD reproveth him whom he loves,  
Hebrews 12:6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."*

*Prov. 8:17 I love those who love me*

**Fear God because God hates and God loves!**

**Do you hate what God hates and love what God loves?  
What does God love? The Son!**

**Prov. 1 All I have talked about is the fear of the lord.**

**For attaining wisdom. Discipline. Discernment.**

**Response:**

**Ask the H. S. to convict you if there is any place in your life that you are not fearing him properly.**

Communion, Offering, Life...are you taking God's grace very lightly...  
(winking at sin)

**Help us to have very high view of you and low view of ourselves.**

