

PROVERBS: ALIGNING TO GOD'S FIXED MORAL ORDER FOR BLESSING

Part II: Sparking The Reader's Motivation To Heed God's Fixed Moral Order

B. Motivating YOUNG MEN To Heed God's Fixed Moral Order

(Proverbs 1:20-33)

I. Introduction

- A. As discovered in evaluations of **boys** involved in recent school shootings, America's **boys** often harbor great anger because our culture has tended to repress them, not letting them release their drives **properly**.
- B. As we have seen in our first lesson, Solomon's Proverbs, written in the form of the Egyptian *sboyet* intends to teach **princes** to heed God's fixed moral order. The goal is to get these **young men** to follow God so that when they rule in the future, the nation will enjoy committed, godly, stable leadership.
- C. Since Proverbs 1:8-9:18 seeks to **motivate** a **young prince** to heed God **God's way**, it offers an excellent study in how to disciple **boys** to become healthy adult leaders in response to our nation's need (as follows):

II. Motivating YOUNG MEN To Heed God's Fixed Moral Order, Proverbs 1:20-33:

- A. Solomon did not repress his young princes into good behavior, but directed their natural, God-given drives to be loved by lovely women well (as follows):
 1. Solomon thus personified "wisdom" as a lovely woman out on the town, a prince's "dream girl," 1:20.
 2. Besides just **looking pretty**, Solomon taught that God's Fixed Moral Order **appeals** to the prince like a lovely woman he might meet out on the town who would express **her** attraction **FOR him**, something a prince might only **dream** about, Prov. 1:20-21. So, Solomon taught **WHAT fulfillment young men hope** comes by being loved by a **lovely woman** is **actually** found in **heeding God's fixed moral order!**
- B. Solomon next **detailed** the **opposing** results via how one responds to that fixed moral order, 1:22-23:
 1. God's fixed moral order rebukes young men about their "open-minded" thinking and paths, promising to pour out fulfillment for taking the "narrow" pathway of God's fixed moral order, Prov. 1:22-23.
 2. That fixed moral order makes a young man live with the following blessings, Proverbs 1:33:
 - a. It makes him live securely, so that there is a degree of insurance against unhappy disasters, 33a.
 - b. It makes him be at ease so that he does not have to be frustrated or chaotic in his thinking, 1:33b.
 - c. It makes him live above worry over disaster, Proverbs 1:33c.
 3. However, if young men continue in their "open-minded" thinking and pathways, life becomes tragic:
 - a. Such "open-minded" thinking lacks a respect for Israel's God Whose ways are set in righteousness versus the naive, "open-minded" way of the world, Proverbs 1:29.
 - b. Such persistently "open-minded" youths live without discernment between good and evil, Prov. 1:22.
 - c. They then learn not to respect others to the point that they mock those whose thinking or ways are not understood or are different from their own, Proverbs 1:23.
 - d. This leads to disasters in relationships and dealings with others, Proverbs 1:24-30.
 - e. Their plans end up backfiring to their own harm, even leading to an early grave, Proverbs 1:31-32.

Lesson: In seeking to disciple **PRINCES** into **KINGS**, (1) Solomon did not **FORCE** these young men into his mold, creating repressed anger in them, **BUT** worked **WITH** their native inclinations to **DESIRE** to be **LOVED** by a **LOVELY WOMAN** to show that the **FULFILL MENT** they **THOUGHT** came from being loved by a lovely woman was **ACTUALLY** available only by aligning to God's **FIXED MORAL ORDER**: that alignment would produce (a) insurance against unhappiness, (b) ease in living and (c) freedom from worry, all that young men **THOUGHT** the love of a lovely woman would insure! (2) Conversely, Solomon told how ignoring God's fixed moral order produced the disaster young men thought missing out on a lovely woman's love brings!

Application: (1) To disciple boys into men, we must not **FORCE** them into a mold we construct, but reveal that **WHAT** they **THINK** would most **FULFILL** them is **ACTUALLY** found **ONLY** in **GOD!** (2) Like Solomon, we need to **COME ALONGSIDE** young men as their **GUIDES** so as to **AID** them to reach the **HAVEN** of fulfillment they desire, exposing this haven to be God's fixed moral order!