

# The Watford Word

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## What's on

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**Sunday** 12 Nov - 10:30AM. Remembrance Sunday.

Malcolm speaking.

**Sunday** 19 Nov - 10:30AM. Niyi Adenubi speaking

**Sunday** 26 Nov - 10:30AM. Advent Sunday.

Malcolm speaking.

**Sunday** 03 Dec - 10:30AM. Stefan speaking

**Saturday** 09 Dec - AIM session: Biblical counselling

**Sunday** 10 Dec - 10:30AM. Dr Andy Boakye speaking

**Sunday** 17 December - 10:30AM. Carol service

**Sunday** 24 December - 10:30AM. Service

**Sunday** 31 December - 10:30AM. Service

**Sunday** 07 January - 10:30AM. Stefan speaking

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## One-Another Relationships: The Proverbs

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*(An edited version of an article by my friend Emily)*

We all need people to be closely involved in our lives. It is about a willingness to open up our heart and our life to others to help and be helped by them so as to become more like Jesus Christ (which is the point). Wisdom and love should be paramount in all our interactions with each other, hence the focus on Proverbs in this article.

Why do we need one-another relationships? As if we need to ask but.....

*"The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice....For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers." Prov 12:15; 11:14*

Many advisers make victory *sure*. 'Sure' means guaranteed, and who doesn't want God himself to guarantee victories for them? So this means get lots of advice until I find the one that sits well with me, right? Well.... Beware of looking for the advice you want to hear!

*"Where there is strife, there is pride, but wisdom is found in those who take advice." (Proverbs 13:10)*

The wise *take* advice, note the difference between listening to and taking advice.

*"Whoever scorns instruction will pay for it, but whoever respects a command is rewarded." Prov 13:13*

Scorn advice and pay for it with consequences. Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

*PROV 16v20 - He who heeds instruction prospers and blessed is he who trusts in the Lord.*

There is an element of trusting God in heeding advice. This is because it is likely the advice will not be what we are expecting to hear or indeed would *like* to hear. It is good to take advice even if we cannot see the end result; I believe God will bless that attitude.

*PROV 18v15 - The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge, the ears of the wise seek it out.*

Essentially we are learning all through our Christian life. We need to search for wise people

to learn from. Seeking out wisdom is crucial to our growth.

*PROV 19v16 - He who obeys instruction guards his life, but he who is contemptuous of his way will die.*

We are contemptuous of our ways or lifestyle when we have a nonchalant, disengaged, or even flippant attitude concerning the state of our hearts or behaviour regarding our spiritual growth.

*PROV 14v8, 11v3 - The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception.*

We deceive each other when we are not open or honest about what is happening in our lives, pretending all is well and not confessing sin. Having a façade and carrying on superficial relationships is deception and duplicity. We have our real self underneath and the public persona on show. Who are we lying to in the end? We only deceive ourselves.

*PROV 21v29 - A wicked man puts up a bold front, but an upright man gives thought to his ways.*

We need regular spiritual health checks because we view our lives through the lens of our sometimes warped self-image. Shouldn't we take advantage of a human mirror to see more accurately?

So how do we sharpen and support each other?

*PROV 15v22 - A man finds joy in giving an apt reply and how good is a timely word.*

*PROV 16v23 - A wise man's heart guides his mouth and pleasant words promote instruction.*

The way I deliver my encouragement, support, advice or challenge can help or hinder the heart of my sister or brother. If I am harsh they may focus on my delivery and miss out on the lesson that God wants to use me to impart to them. Hence I have ceased to be a blessing and have

actually harmed them by distracting them from the issue at hand.

## **PRACTICALS**

- Find 3 or 4 friends to include in your inner circle. We need more than one friend for lots of reasons, but one of them is that we will not be putting all our burdens on one person.
- Chose the members of your 'council' wisely. It is crucial that you know you can trust them implicitly or believe you can develop that level of trust. This will help us to be honest and open. We can only help each other to the extent that we are willing to be open.
- Also, since "many advisers make victory sure", we will need to get a cross-section of views, and not naturally gravitate to that sister who sympathises/agrees with us whatever we say. We are more likely to get a diverse view with additional friends.
- Ensure that you do not categorise your different friends into 'fun time' friend, 'work issues' friend, 'relationships issues' friend and 'spiritual life' friend and never the twain shall meet! That has the net result of only having one friend.

## **Conclusion**

Why strive to be pure and holy? Why go to all this trouble to keep our hearts fresh, in tip-top condition and on the edge? To ready our hearts for the service of God, to become more like Jesus Christ and essentially to please God and go to heaven! Surely that's all that matters in the end.

Your sister, Emily King-David

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## **Watford Media**

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj9Qa8D9zumJZdoAtARDUww>

Podcast: <https://www.podbean.com/pu/pbblog-aiinq-1aef90>