

LISTENING TO ADVICE

Proverbs 7:5 ... "It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise than for a man to hear the song of fools."

The world is full of opinions. Some opinions are sensible, but many are ridiculous or even dangerous. If you consult with someone before making a decision, you could receive only their opinion (which usually is not worth much), or you could receive good advice born out of experience and wisdom. The difference between good and bad advice, is the source.

Teenagers, lonely people, widows, and persons who suffer from poor self-confidence or insecurity, are especially vulnerable to bad advice. Bad advice can come from well-meaning acquaintances, from people who really do not care about you, or those who want to hurt you. Satan, himself, is full of bad advice. He tricked a third of the angels into rebelling against God, and he tricked Eve. Satan has a truckload of tricks and bad advice for you, which he usually delivers through other people.

When you are faced with making an important decision, seek the advice and counsel of wise and godly people who you trust and who have already demonstrated that they have your best interest at heart. Frankly, some of your best advice will come from someone older and more experienced than yourself. Sadly, teenagers often get into trouble by rejecting the advice of older persons. They take the advice of their peers, who lack experience and wisdom, and can offer only their own inexperienced opinions. Some of the decisions we make have profound and life-long impacts on our lives, and can affect our relationship with God.

Today's verse cautions against listening to fools. Every criminal, drug addict, or terrorist became bad by listening to foolish and ungodly advice. The habit of many insecure persons is to shop around for advice until they find someone willing to tell them what they want to hear.

Obtaining counsel is not a sign of weakness. In fact, it is a sign of wisdom IF you listen to godly and moral people. But, the greatest source of wisdom, is from God and His Word. Go to the Bible and prayer first, before consulting with other godly people you respect.

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