



## VALUES?

### "Moral Values—Where to Find Them" Proverbs 1:1-7

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"In the book of Proverbs 'wisdom' signifies skillful living—the ability to make wise choices and live successfully according to the moral standards of the covenant community... (This) produces things of lasting value to God and to the community." (Allen P. Ross, E.B.C. 5:905)

#### I. "The Fear of the Lord Is the Beginning." 1:7; 9:10

- A. The fear of the Lord defined.
  - 1. The Lord's self-description. Exodus 34:6-7
  - 2. Glad submission to gracious majesty.
- B. The fear of the Lord desired.
  - 1. A matter of conviction. 1:7b
  - 2. A matter of concern. 2:1-5
  - 3. A matter of choice.
- C. The fear of the Lord discovered.
  - 1. Creates sensitivity to evil. 8:13
  - 2. Creates a sense of security. 14:26
  - 3. Creates resources for living. 14:27
  - 4. Creates basis of wisdom. 15:33

Note: The fear of the Lord is not limited to O.T.! See Acts 8:31; Romans 3:18; 2 Corinthians 7:1

#### II. "The Beginning of Knowledge (Wisdom)." 1:7; 9:10

- A. "Wisdom" is an attribute of the Creator. 8:22f
  - 1. Not community majority opinions.
  - 2. Not personal preferences.
- B. "Wisdom" is intrinsically valuable. 8:1f
  - 1. It teaches moral and practical living skills. 1:2-7
  - 2. It imparts "discipline" that develops character.
  - 3. It develops "understanding" which leads to "discernment."
  - 4. It produces "prudence" which knows how to behave.
    - a. What is right—conforming to a standard. e.g. Deuteronomy 25:15
    - b. What is just—making decisions that are proper.
    - c. What is fair—conducting oneself uprightly.

Note: Compare Eve (Genesis 3:6) and Abigail (1 Samuel 25:3).
- C. "Wisdom" is readily available. 9:1f
  - 1. To those who are naïve (simple). 1:4
  - 2. To those who are young.
  - 3. To those who are maturing. 1:5
  - 4. To those who seek guidance.

#### III. "But Fools Despise Wisdom." 1:7

- A. The fool is wise in his own eyes. 26:5
- B. The fool prefers his folly. 26:11
- C. The fool disregards sin's importance. 14:9
- D. The fool ducks the issues. 14:8

**Points to Ponder:** Is the "fear" and "knowledge" of the Lord the foundation of my values?