

2. Build the best possible relationships
 - a. Avoid the things that are hinted at in 17:1, 15:17, 19:13 and other places. Note that only one aspect is given in these. See what other aspects are hidden underneath the text and what the full applications are.
 - b. Fulfill the concepts of friendship (17:17)
 - c. Learn to admit and accept correction (9:9; 13:13, et al)
 - d. Pattern after true biblical models (chapter 31...the feminine party is in clearest focus...the masculine party is implied. Both are important models.)
 - e. Pick up on the principles offered in our first discussion and see how these apply.
3. Make fidelity a fervent goal
 - a. See the consequences of infidelity and note that infidelity is not only in the sexual realm but in all those areas that divide and take from another what ought to be theirs. The Proverbs texts are legion on fidelity but see the section in 5:15-23
 - b. See the family as our contribution to society and the ongoing work of God 23:24-26
 - c. Keep the aspects of life consistent with fidelity as in the use of the tongue (15:1-2, etc.). In other words, don't talk hatefully as if the other persons had no meaning.
4. Seek the contentment that God gives in the course of His provision of life. 30:1-9

And I have no doubt many others may be added. You will be free to add some yourself. And most of my points in this discussion are preventive. So when the hurts occur all of the above must be reemphasized and there must be forgiveness, acceptance (see 2.c. above), fellowship, and commitment.

We cannot avoid the hurts...we learn to allow the Word to heal them for us. Recurrent hurts at a low level may lead to a vicious hurt at a higher level. (Isn't that philosophical enough?) We may, accordingly, need to change our status in life. But we do not live on the hurt. We learn to allow it to be healed and then we live in a state of health. There may be a scar but that is different from a running sore.

IV. Dealing with Irritating Circumstances

5:1-14

This is our banquet address and it seems that such occasions are not times for heavy study. But in keeping with our overall theme I will outline some irritating circumstances that may be familiar with you and work from them. The watchword for dealing with irritating circumstances is to honor the working and rule of love. I will define and stress this several times.