

# The Book of Proverbs

Godly Wisdom for Everyday Life

## SSBC Proverbs Bible Study # 15

*Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.*

### **A Portrait of the Wise**

Key Passage: Proverbs 14:16-17

Related Passages: Proverbs 12:16; 14:29;  
16:32; and 17:27

Sermon Date: January 13, 2008

### **The wise are not easily angered.**

Do you remember the old rhyme “ Sticks and stones may break my bones but words can never hurt me”? I remember as a young boy being teased by others and I would yell this rhyme back to them as loud as I could. Maybe it made me feel better, but you know what? Words do hurt and make you angry as well.

Does anger make you feel helpless? Can a person learn to control their anger? How does a person learn to control their emotions and anger?

I suspect that we are all guilty of getting angry at one time or another. Can any of us drive on our highways without getting a little angry when someone cuts us off? What should we do about our anger when it does happen to us? Let's all prayerfully look at this weeks study and learn how scripture teaches us to handle this difficult issue.

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the following charts to note your observations and any questions you have. The first verse below is the key verse for this study. Keeping this verse in mind, read each of the subsequent verses and note how each provides further insight into the meaning of this key verse.

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p><b>Key Verse Proverbs 14:16-17</b> (NIV)</p> <p><b>14:16</b> A wise man fears the LORD and shuns evil,</p> <p>but a fool is hotheaded and reckless.</p> <p><b>14:17</b> A quick-tempered man does foolish things,</p> <p>and a crafty man is hated.</p> <hr/> <p><b>12:16</b> A fool shows his annoyance at once,</p> <p>but a prudent man overlooks an insult.</p> <p><b>14:29</b> A patient man has great understanding,</p> <p>but a quick-tempered man displays folly.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p><b>16:32</b> Better a patient man than a warrior,</p> <p>a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city.</p> <p><b>17:27</b> A man of knowledge uses words with restraint,</p> <p>and a man of understanding is even-tempered.</p>	

2. Next, use this chart to interpret some key observations.

a. From the chart on the previous pages, select a few of your observations & questions that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and then interpret and apply each of them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father,? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

<b>Observation</b> What does it Say?	<b>Interpretation</b> What does it mean?

3. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- ◆ **Sins to avoid**
- ◆ **Promises to believe**
- ◆ **Examples to follow** (remember "SPECK")
- ◆ **Commands to obey**
- ◆ **Knowledge to share**

Don't just write things to write them — listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

<b>Application</b> How do I apply what it means?

4. Reading through the verses in Proverbs concerning anger, describe what it might mean to have “righteous anger.” Consider John 2:13-17 and Numbers 25:10-11.
5. In Mark 3:1-5 and John 21:12-13, Jesus became angry. What is the difference between Jesus’ anger and our anger?
6. What causes anger in you? Write down some of the causes that you think of here.
7. What are some results of the anger we have? Consider Psalm 37:8, James 1:19-20, Ephesians 6:4.
8. How does God replace selfish anger in our hearts? Consider Matthew 5:21-26, Ephesians 4:31-32, and I Corinthians 13:4-5.
9. Proverb 14:29 and 16:32 both speak of a patient man having great understanding and being better than a victorious warrior that conquers an entire city. What is the connection between patience and anger?
10. How can you apply what you have learned in this study to your life this week? Consider James 1:26-27 and 3:1-12.

**Memory Verse**

**Proverbs 12:9**

**<sup>12:9</sup> Better to be a nobody and yet have a servant  
than pretend to be somebody and have no food.**

We all experience angry emotions. Some even describe anger as a “passion—” even the most passionate, uncontrollable emotion. It can flare up into hatred and smother love. We have seen that God himself has holy anger, so anger is not wrong in itself. We must always look at the object of our anger, though, and our motive for anger and its outcome. Anger that is self-righteous, self-centered and prideful, which demands its own way is dangerous to our souls. Anger left unresolved can lead to hatred, bitterness and evil behavior.

God’s holy anger is perfectly directed against sin itself yet leaves room for his abundant mercy toward a sinner. Our anger often overflows in selfish vengeance and blocks the way to peace and justice.

How can our character change? In Christ we find a love which can control our anger and tame our emotions so that we do not hurt those around us. It all begins with acknowledging that we are sinfully angry people who need God’s help. Accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Under the renewing power of the Holy Spirit, you can put into practice Ephesians 4:26—”Don’t sin by letting anger gain control over you. Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a mighty foothold to the Devil.”

Won’t you take this first and most important step right now? Ask Jesus Christ to come into your heart and forgive you of your anger and selfishness? God will overcome the anger that controls you and replace it with love for others. Enter this new life right now.

*These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact **studieditor@southshorebaptist.com***

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