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The Proverbs Series

Making A Difference

Pastor Ken Sistrunk

Proverbs 15:1-10 ¹A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. ²The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouth of the fool spouts folly. ³The eyes of the LORD are in every place, observing the evil and the good. ⁴A soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit. ⁵A fool rejects his father's discipline, but whoever heeds correction is prudent. ⁶The house of the righteous has great treasure, but the income of the wicked is trouble. ⁷The lips of the wise spread knowledge, but not so the hearts of fools. ⁸The sacrifice of the wicked is detestable to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is His delight. ⁹The LORD detests the way of the wicked, but He loves those who pursue righteousness. ¹⁰Discipline is harsh for him who leaves the path; he who hates correction will die. BSB

I. Here are the details of this passage.

- A. We must lower the temperature in **conflict** situations. The best starting point is to deal with guilt, shame, and unforgiveness issues from our past. V. 1
- B. We must double check our **facts** before passing along information. V. 2, 7
- C. We must make our decisions in light of God's **eyes** watching everything that we do and say. V. 3
- D. Our **tongues** must be used for positive purposes and not for hurting others. V. 4
- E. We must be **open** to correction. No one is perfect and we all need to continue to mature. V. 5, 10
- F. **Money** never solves character issues. V.6
- G. **Religious activity** does not correct character issues. V. 8, 9

II. How can we apply these truths?

- A. We must quit trying to win **debates** by losing our **integrity**.
James 3:17-18 But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peace-loving, gentle, accommodating, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial, and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap the fruit of righteousness. BSB
- B. We live for an audience of **One**.
- C. We must make a strong effort to **build** others up through the words that we speak to them.
- D. We must accept the **discipline** from those in authority over us and commit to positive change.
- E. We must make our character a top **priority** over being right.