

Studies in the Book of Proverbs by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

(#97) The Proverbs of Solomon 15:20- Home-grown Heartbreak

Since God Created humans, only God can provide specific understanding of human behavior. God gave Solomon Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**) to explain what and why behavior is as it is, and **Proverbs 10:1 - 24:34** are randomly written, as if they were Judgments Solomon made about individual cases brought to him for Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**), or simply God-given explanations about life. New Testament passages may help see the continuation of Wisdom offered through Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 15:20:

A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish man despises his mother.

"A wise son" has learned God's Wisdom and nothing is more satisfying than for a father to see that in his son! "A foolish man" has rejected God's Wisdom and nothing hurts a mother more than to see her son "despise" (lightly regard, disregard, disdain) her!

Too often the son who is overindulged and overprotected by his mother is neither prepared to love and appreciate her, or any other woman, for that matter! Before marrying any man, a woman should know, firsthand, his attitude toward his own mother! Reverse the proverb for the father and it reads:

A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her who bore him. (**Proverbs 17:25**)

Both parents share in the "grief" and "bitterness" when their "son" is "foolish." There is no joy, and only anguish, when parents see their son a "fool." Another proverb shows how it could be even worse:

A foolish son is the ruin of his father, and the contentions of a wife are a continual dripping. (**Proverbs 19:13**)

The situation becomes intolerable for both the father and the son if the woman engages in "a continual dripping" (nagging, blaming, berating) for that condition! Each soul has made free choices and is responsible for his, or her, own.

Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine; the soul who sins shall die.
(**Ezekiel 18:4**)



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No son can justify his disrespect of his parents, disregard for others' safety, or disgraceful conduct by what his parents did, or didn't do, if he is trying to "be his own man!"

Yet another proverb shows that the son who pushes away from his parents has nothing of which to be proud. Still another proverb shows what parents can anticipate when home values work:

- He who mistreats *his* father *and* chases away his mother *is* a son who causes shame and brings reproach. (**Proverbs 19:26**).
- The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, and he who begets a wise *child* will delight in him. Let your father and your mother be glad, and let her who bore you rejoice. (**Proverbs 23:24-25**).
- Whoever loves wisdom makes his father rejoice, but a companion of harlots wastes his wealth. (**Proverbs 29:3**)

Jesus used such a "foolish son" who "wasted his possessions with prodigal living" to show how the father (like the Father in Heaven!) waited in hopes that his son would repent and return of his humbled choice, which happened (**Luke 15:11-24**)! Many treasures and family fortunes have been squandered in wasteful sins that helped no one in a beneficial way. God has waited for foolish sons to come to Him, for:

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
(**2 Peter 3:9**)

Isn't it about time you returned to God?

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (**Acts 2:38**)

