

# The Heart of the Wise

Part 2 of *Proverbs: Simple Wisdom for a Complicated World*

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Pastor Rich Warriner

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Key Text: Proverbs 7:6-27 NIV

*God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore.*

1 Kings 4:29 NIV

*For those who find me find life and receive favor from the Lord. But those who fail to find me harm themselves; all who hate me love death.”*

Proverbs 8:35-36, NIV

Three Kinds of People

- The simple person – someone who doesn't have wisdom.
- The wise person – someone who has wisdom.
- The foolish person – someone who has wisdom but chooses not to live by it.

*Leave your simple ways, and live, and walk in the way of insight. Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury. Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.*

Proverbs 9:6-9

The difference between a learner and a scoffer:

- A scoffer thinks they know more than everyone else but a learner humbly accepts that they have much to learn.
- A scoffer will only learn from some people but a learner believes that wisdom can be learned from anyone.

- A scoffer dismisses criticism and correction but a learner understands that hidden within almost every criticism or correction is at least a grain of truth.
- A scoffer feels like they've arrived and know it all but a learner never stops learning.

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## Next Steps

Take some time to answer the following questions with your spouse, children, or small group...

- Tell about a time in life when your naivety got you in trouble.
- Reread the above descriptions of the three kinds of people found in the book of Proverbs. Which one would you tend to relate to the most? Explain.
- Read Proverbs 9:6-9. Tell about a time when learning came in the form of criticism or correction. How did you respond?
- What is a piece of wisdom that you've been learning recently? Where did you learn it? How would your life be different if you began to live out that wisdom?
- Pray for one another.