



**Teaching Notes:** Ray Davis

June 20, 2010

**WISDOM**

(Competent In Life's Realities)

# desert breeze community church

## “How It Works”

Wisdom is seeing and responding to life from God's perspective. It's not a technique to be mastered but a character to be developed over time. Strong (Godly) character gives you the ability to meet the demands of reality. (Matt. 7:24-27) How is character developed and how is character changed?

Proverbs 4:10-27

**How is Character Developed?** Sow an action reap a habit, sow a habit reap a character, sow a character reap a destiny. (Gal. 6:7-9; Hosea 10:12-13)

- **Sow an action reap a habit.** vv11-12 way, paths, walk, step, run. Your character is fixed and determined not by the dramatic events but by the daily choices you make.
- **Sow a habit and reap a character.** Vv13-17 In the beginning of a pathway you're in control (note v14), but eventually further down the path you are being controlled (note v16 It's the language of addiction & obsession).
- **Sow a character reap a destiny.** What's the end of this? V19 "Deep darkness; they do not know over what they stumble."

## How is Character Changed?

- **Character change is not behavior modification but heart transformation.** Vv20-23 You can't change your character through will power, trying harder or redoubled efforts focusing on actions. (Jer. 13:23)  
"The key to life change is not the acts of the will but the loves of the heart." – St. Augustine
- **Everything in life comes from the heart, so when the heart is right everything else will be right.** V23 Wellspring of life -> V24 speech V25 perspective Vv26-27 behavior (Luke 6:43-45; Mark 7:14-23)

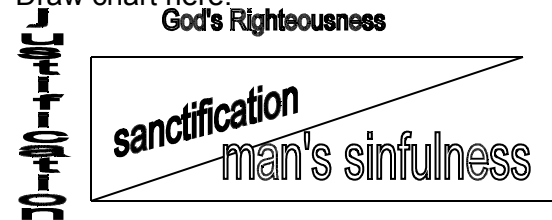
Draw Heart Chart here:



- **The biggest problem with my heart is disordered loves.** (Matt. 6:21; Matt. 10:37; Mark 12:33)  
Disordered loves are anything more important to your acceptance, security & significance than God. It is anything that absorbs your heart (thoughts, feelings, will) more than God. Anything you seek to give you what only God can give you.
- **Disordered loves can't be removed only replaced with a greater love.** Positional righteousness (Justification) will lead me to making Christ the love of my life resulting in Practical righteousness (Sanctification) throughout my life. V18 (Ezek. 36:26-27; 2 Cor. 5:17)

Justification = Positional Righteousness.  
(2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 2:16)  
Sanctification = Practical Righteousness.  
(2 Thess. 2:13; Eph. 4:24)  
Glorification = Perfect Righteousness.  
(1 Cor. 15:43; 1 John 3:2)

Draw chart here:



“Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.” - C.S. Lewis



# Growing

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1) Why do you think old habits die hard? What old habits need to die in your life? Why do you think they have been so hard to die?

2) Read Pro. 4:10-19. How do these words in vv11-12 (way, paths, walk, step, run) show us that our character is fixed and determined not by the dramatic events but by the daily choices we make (Sow an action and reap a habit)? What are the benefits of the way of wisdom according to verse 12?

3) In the beginning of a pathway you're in control (note v14), but eventually further down the path you are being controlled (note v16 is the language of addiction & obsession). Explain what it means to sow a habit and reap a character? What are the final results when you sow a character and reap a destiny (v19)?

4) Read Pro. 4:20-27. What is the difference between behavioral modification and heart transformation? How does everything in life come from the heart (vv23-27)? Why is the biggest problem with our heart disordered loves? How does Matthew 6:21 relate?

5) What tends to take God's place in your life? Verse 18 is talking about both positional and practical righteousness. What is the difference? Explain why disordered loves can't be removed but only replaced with a greater love? What spiritual disciplines increase your appetite for Christ? Pray that Christ will be the treasure of