

THE POWER OF INFLUENCE

TEXT: (Proverbs 22:24-25, NIV)

²⁴ Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered, ²⁵ or you may learn their ways and get yourself ensnared.

INTRODUCTION

1. “Do not be misled: ‘Bad company corrupts good character.’ Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning” (I Corinthians 15:33-34, NIV).

I. SIN IS CONTAGIOUS

A. Sin Never Loses Its Infectious Character

1. “This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘Ask the priests what the law says: If someone carries consecrated meat in the fold of their garment, and that fold touches some bread or stew, some wine, olive oil or other food, does it become consecrated?’ ”

The priests answered, ‘No.’

Then Haggai said, ‘If a person defiled by contact with a dead body touches one of these things, does it become defiled?’

‘Yes,’ the priests replied, ‘it becomes defiled’” (Haggai 2:11-13, NIV).

B. Social Distancing

1. “Don’t hang out with angry people; don’t keep company with hotheads. Bad temper is contagious—don’t get infected” (Proverbs 22:24-25, MSG).
2. “‘So leave the corruption and compromise; leave it for good,’ says God. Don’t link up with those who will pollute you. I want you all for myself. I’ll be a Father to you; you’ll be sons and daughters to me” (II Corinthians 6:17-18, MSG).

C. The Fear of Covid-19

1. “You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it” (Matthew 7:13-14, NLT).
2. “Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn their ways and get yourself ensnared” (Proverbs 22:24-25, NIV).

II. THE INFLUENCE OF THE WORLD

1. “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him” (I John 2:14, NIV).
2. “For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil” (Proverbs 5:3, NIV).

A. The Heart Cannot Love Both God and This World

1. “Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:15, NIV).
2. “No one can serve two masters...You cannot serve both God and [the world]” (Matthew 6:24, NIV).

B. Shielding Your Treasure from Trash

1. "Satan disguises himself as an angel of light" (II Corinthians 11:14, NLT).
2. "Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn their ways and get yourself ensnared" (Proverbs 22:24-25, NIV).

C. What's a Parent to Do?

1. "For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:11-13, NIV).

III. Battlements

1. "When thou buildest a new house, then thou shalt make a battlement for thy roof, that thou bring not blood upon thine house, if any man fall from thence" (Deuteronomy 22:8, KJV).

A. Reverence for the Bible and Its Principles

1. (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)
2. "The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward" (Psalm 19:7-11).

B. Family Worship

C. Consistent Life