

# PSALMS PROVERBS & PARABLES



## Two Ways to Live

Proverbs 9

### Main Idea

Either you follow Lady Folly that leaves you unchecked in your “simple” thinking or you follow Lady Wisdom who calls you to leave your simple thinking and take up the guidance of the Fear of the Lord.

### Overview

#### **I. Lady Folly:**

- A. She is Loud and knows nothing (vs. 13)
  - 1. It seems as though she is lazy (in comparison to Lady Wisdom) as she sits at her door (vs. 14)
  - 2. She calls out to those that pass by who are going straight (vs. 15):
    - a. She calls them Simple (vs. 16)
    - b. She tells them to turn into her home (vs. 16)
  - 3. She prepares a meal of bread and water (vs. 17)
    - a. The meal is apparently in some way, forbidden
    - b. Because it is forbidden, it is sweet
  - 4. She leads people unaware of the deadness in her house (vs. 18)
    - a. Her guests are in the depth of death (vs. 18)

#### **II. Lady Wisdom:**

- A. She has built her house & has hewn her seven pillars: Indicating Completeness & security (vs. 1)
  - 1. She has prepared an extravagant meal & set the table with it (vs. 2)
  - 2. She has sent out messengers to the meal (vs. 3)
  - 3. She also makes a call to the simple to turn into her home and meal (vs. 4)
    - a. She makes a call for them to LEAVE their simple ways (vs. 6)
    - b. The result will be life (vs. 6)
    - c. There will also be insight in leaving simple ways (vs. 6)
  - 4. Correction to scoffers or wicked men receive either abuse, injury, or hate (vs. 7-8a)
  - 5. Wise men love when they receive correction (vs. 8b)
    - a. They receive more wisdom in correction (vs. 9)
    - b. Righteous/Wise men who receive correction increase in learning (vs. 9)
  - 6. The fear or awe of the Lord is the basis of Wisdom (vs. 10)
    - a. Knowledge of God brings insight (vs. 10)
  - 7. Lady wisdom brings life (vs. 11)

### Questions

Discussion Starter: *Have you ever had an experience where, had you remained “simple” in your thinking you would have seen/brought destruction/death? Seen it in others?*

1. Read Proverbs 9. Describe the home & the meals of the two ladies. In what ways are the two ladies similar? Different? Why are each considered wise/foolly?
2. When Wisdom says to “leave” simple thinking, describe what that looks like and how it is distinct from folly.
3. How are we tempted to remain in “simple” thinking everyday? (not only big decisions, but small ones as well)
4. Read verses 7-9. Compare the simple thinking of wisdom vs. foolishness. Why do scoffers or wicked men want to abuse, injure, or hate those that attempt to correct them? Why does the wise man love it? What is the appropriate way to give correction?
5. What does Lady Folly have at the conclusion of her call? Wisdom?
6. It appears many who follow Lady Folly don't know it (vs. 18), so how can we make certain we don't find ourselves in Sheol?
7. If Folly is so clearly foolish, why do so many follow her? Can you give examples of where it's wrong to always follow what is sweet and pleasant?
8. Why does Jesus offer us a sweetness and pleasantness that is much more satisfying than that of Lady Folly? (John 10.10, 15.11, 17.13)

*Accountability Question: Are you willing to invite correction? Prove it. (Remember those who are correcting are people who have Christ like love that recognizes its own sin as worse than those they are reprovng)*