

Avoiding Toxic
Relationships
Proverbs 13:20

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Introduction

- ◆ Toxic Relationships can extend beyond people.
- ◆ You can have a toxic relationship with things – i.e. smoking, drinking, food, television, work, the church, religious activities. Anything that truly hinders your relationship with God and your time with God, can become a toxic relationship
- ◆ Satan is a master of getting you into toxic relationships

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- ◆ 3. His ultimate desire is to kill you and the only way he will not succeed is based on your relationship with God

Toxic Relationships Extend Well Beyond People

- ◆ Numerous Christians are in toxic relationships and don't even know it.
- ◆ Some are in toxic relationships with people
- ◆ Others are in toxic relationships with things

Book of Proverbs

- ◆ Proverbs belonged to what scholars call the “wisdom literature”. The wisdom literature also includes the book of Job and Ecclesiastes
- ◆ **The major theme of Proverbs is wisdom**
- ◆ The word wise and wisdom is used at least 125 times in the book of Proverbs
- ◆ To address toxic relationships we need wisdom

Samson's Failure

- ◆ Judges chapter 13 through 16
- ◆ Samson is an illustration of engaging in toxic relationship
- ◆ We will examine Samson's ten failures
- ◆ You also need to guard against these same ten things to protect yourself from a toxic relationship

Samson's 10 Failures

- 1. He went where he should not have gone (Judges 14:1)
- 2. He involved others in his desires that were contrary to God's purpose (Judges 14:5)
- 3. He took part in the forbidden (Judges 14:8-9)
- 4. He followed the pattern of the world instead of what God instructed (Judges 14:10)
- 5. He became a party boy (Judges 14:11-12)

Samson's 10 Failures Cont..

- 6. He began to play the field (Judges 16:1-2)
- 7. He met his match “Delilah”. *She played him like a violin* (Judges 16:4)
- 8. He lost the source of his strength (Judges 16:4-19)
- 9. He was placed in bondage (Judges 16:21)
- 10. He died in disgrace (Judges 16:31)