



# Solomon's Press

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# PREFACE

The book of Proverbs is one of three inspired books of the Bible written by King Solomon. He was the second son of King David and Bathsheba. His wisdom, dominion and riches are legendary. This gift by God to one man shows the mercy and love God has for his people. The wisdom Solomon was given is a sample of God's. It is the desire of many. This pleases God. He said it is to be desired more than gold. He made it available by giving it to us through the writing skills of Solomon.

In 2 Chronicles 1:7-12 we read about a dream Solomon had. In that dream God talked with him and asked what he desired. Solomon asked for wisdom and knowledge to rule God's people. God was pleased, and granted him that request. God told him it was given him so that he *"mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king"* (1 Chronicles 1:11). To "judge" in this context means to rule or govern and to *"discern between good and bad"* (1 Kings 3:9). He was given a *"wise and discerning heart"* (1 Kings 3:12). This ability to discern good and bad behavior in people was demonstrated in the story of two women with babies, who came to him for justice (1 Kings 3:16-27). God gave him the ability to detect a true heart from a false one.

Solomon was also inspired to distill that wisdom into a form easily understood and recorded. *"...he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs. The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright, even words of truth."* (Ecclesiastes 12:9b, 10). His proverbs have captured for us small, clear nuggets of his wisdom. We are able to use them, *"...to know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; to receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment and equity."* (Proverbs 1:2, 3). These proverbs illustrate for us how people think, speak and behave.

Life has trials, and people do bad things. Why is this? Is it not because people serve wrong gods? God created man to have a relationship with Him. This relationship is expressed by service and worship. *"Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve"* (Matthew 4:10). God created man to worship and serve. Man serves and worships the god(s) he loves. At first, Adam loved only God. In time he chose to

love others. When he disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit, his spiritual relationship with God died. Service and worship are part of a close relationship. God made it clear that man was to have that kind of relationship with Him only. Instead, Adam chose to have that relationship with other gods, and that desire has been passed to all of his descendants. All men continue to have a knowledge of the presence of God, but the relationship has died, and the desire to worship and serve other gods continues. (See Romans 1:18-25 and Ezekiel 14:1-8.) Simply put, “other gods” or “idols” are anyone or anything more important to us than God, and they are always something created.

Jesus came, and through his shed blood made it possible to have the relationship with God restored. The Holy Spirit has given men the ability to worship and serve God again. (See Romans 7:6, 8:11; Colossians 3:24; 1 Thessalonians 1:9 and Hebrews 9:14.)

But serving and worshipping other gods still occurs. This causes “*the travail which God hath given to the sons of men*” Solomon wrote about, and results in thinking, speaking and behaving in ways that are harmful. God told us in Ezekiel 20:16 “*their heart went after their idols.*” (See also Romans 1:28-32).

Idolatry produces disorders. Webster's dictionary defines a disorder as a “disturbance of the regular or normal functions of” something, the word is used widely to describe disturbances of mental functions, resulting in abnormal behaviors. Most of the modern world understands the concept. As we examine the disturbance by Adam of the intended worship of God, it is fitting to use a term recognizable by most. It seems fitting also because this spiritual disturbance results in the same abnormal behaviors. The idolatry Adam introduced has spread to all people. The order God intended for worship has been broken, and many “worship disorders” result. The world says they are caused by sickness, but the Bible says they are caused by idolatry.

Solomon was gifted at identifying and labeling many worship disorders. He also described many of the symptoms of these disorders, affecting thoughts, speech and actions. He foretold many likely consequences of these disorders. He also gave us hope by telling how they may be treated and prevented. It seems appropriate then to call this examination of the book of Proverbs *Solomon's Guide to Worship Disorders*.

When I began this effort, I hoped to produce a resource which I

could use on an ongoing basis. I was not aware of any similar works. For many years, I had wished for an organized way to find related proverbs. I was really not sure what the overall theme of Proverbs was. It has been fascinating to see how so many of the Proverbs fell into related categories and reveal Solomon's theme. The Proverbs themselves determined the categories. This has given me a greater appreciation of the great wisdom God gave Solomon and how useful Proverbs can be. It is my hope that you too may find some usefulness in this guide. While it may serve as a reference tool, just reading through it can give one an understanding of the human soul.

All glory to God.

*—Thomas C. Johnson,*

*February, 2016*

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## Volume I



---

# Worship Disorders

*Part 1: Worship Disorders*

*Part 2: Symptoms*

*Part 3: Consequences*

*Part 4: Responses*

*Part 5: Treatment*

*Part 6: Prevention*

Most of the modern world understands the word “disorder”. The psychologists have defined disorders to a very fine level. Most of society expects a label to be attached to problems they face. When someone thinks, speaks, or behaves abnormally, it usually produces identifiable and observable patterns. These patterns get labeled. The labeled patterns are called disorders. In their reference book “The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders” (DSM), psychologists have defined many different disorders, and the number grows.

Technical definitions of problems have been around for only a couple of centuries. But the underlying philosophy (way of thinking) behind them has been around almost as long as man has. It is humanism. Humanism is a man-centered belief that excludes the need of higher powers (God) for self-fulfillment and ethical conduct. *“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the traditions of men, after the rudiments (principles) of the world, and not after Christ.”* (Col 2:8). Its philosophy results in the belief that disorders are a sickness, and not the fault of the sufferer. They are considered “personality” disorders, which are unchangeable.

Few will question the need to diagnose problems. But to be any use, a diagnosis needs to point to a solution. It needs to be able to give hope. It may seem useful to use the DSM to find a handy label for a problem. But the temptation then, is to rely on the same philosophy to find a solution. But it has none to offer.

God is not surprised by the problems people face. He knows how they happen, and how to solve them. Long before the psychologists put together their list of disorders, God appointed one of His men to do something similar. About 970 years before Christ, King Solomon was given great insights into the behavior of men and was inspired to write about them. But the approach Solomon took was different. He looked at problems from a spiritual perspective. He knew that the way people behave had to do with their relationship with the Lord God. He put together much information, and God preserved it for us in the form of proverbs.

Solomon didn't come up with as many labels as modern men have. It wasn't necessary. Because from a spiritual view they all point to one cause: people decide to obtain what they want outside of the will of God. This results in idolatry. This causes people to worship in a false, fleshly

way. This produces wrong behavior patterns, called “worship disorders”. They produce character problems.

But, the fact that these problems are actually a spiritual matter, means there is much hope for a permanent solution. This is because Jesus Christ came to redeem people from their idolatry. Character problems, which are in the heart, are changeable because He promises to give new hearts. He gives us everything needed to live godly lives. *“According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness...”* (2 Peter 1:3).

Idolatry produces many different symptoms, but there are common patterns. Solomon observed people and identified a number of these patterns and labeled them. In this part of “Solomon’s Guide To Worship Disorders” many of these disorders are listed. I have combined them together to enable you to be able to see what Solomon had to say about each one. Some of them, like the “fool” have many entries. Others, like “backslider” has only one. His approach was not intended to be systematic, but to reveal and give hope.

This part of the book starts with a table of contents listing all of the disorders and the page on which they may be found. You can use this to great advantage when searching for a particular disorder, or studying the many different disorders men produce for themselves. This can be useful for self-reflection or for helping someone else who is struggling with a problem. I grouped together disorders found in Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. It may be useful to examine them to see the various symptoms and consequences Solomon identified. In later parts of the book symptoms and consequences are categorized in a similar way. Also, there will be more discussion about idolatry, its causes, how it affects worship and how worship disorders can be overcome and prevented.

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# Angry

*Websters:*

A feeling of displeasure resulting from injury, mistreatment, opposition, etc. and usually showing itself in a desire to fight back at the supposed cause of the feeling.

*Hebrew Words:*

639, 2194, 3708

*Proverbs 14:17*

**He that is soon angry** dealeth foolishly...

*Proverbs 19:19*

A **man of great wrath** shall suffer punishment, for if thou deliver him, yet thou must do it again.

*Proverbs 21:19*

It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an **angry** woman.

*Proverbs 22:24, 25*

Make no friendship with an **angry** man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go: Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul.

*Proverbs 25:23*

The north wind bringeth forth rain: so doth a backbiting tongue [bring] an **angry** countenance.

*Proverbs 29:22*

An **angry** man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.

# Backslider

*Websters:*

One who slides backwards in morals or religious enthusiasm, becoming less virtuous, less pious, etc.

*Hebrew Words:*

5472

*Proverbs 14:14*

The **backslider** in heart shall be filled with his own ways...

# Bloodthirsty

*Websters:*

One eager for the shedding of blood, violence or killing.

*Proverbs 29:10*

The **bloodthirsty** hate the upright...

# Cruel

*Websters:*

1. Deliberately seeking to inflict pain and suffering; enjoying other's suffering, without mercy or pity.
2. Causing or of a kind to cause pain, distress, etc.

*Hebrew Word:*

394

*Proverbs 5:9*

Lest thou give thine honor unto others, and thy years unto the **cruel**. [Consequence of sexual impurity.]

*Proverbs 11:17*

...he that is **cruel** troubleth his own flesh.

# Evil

*Websters:*

The fact of suffering and wickedness; the totality of undesirable, harmful, wicked acts, experiences and things. Not good morally, marked by bad moral qualities, violating the rules of morality.

*Hebrew Words:*

205, 7451, 7489

*Proverbs: 2:12*

To deliver thee from the way of the **evil** man...

*Proverbs 2:14*

Who rejoice to do **evil**...

*Proverbs 4:14*

...go not in the way of **evil** men.

*Proverbs 10:29, 21:15*

...destruction shall be to the **workers of iniquity**.

*Proverbs 11:19*

...he that pursueth **evil** pursueth it to his own death.

*Proverbs 12:12*

The wicked desireth the net of **evil** men...

*Proverbs 12:20*

Deceit is in the heart of them that imagine **evil**...

*Proverbs 14:19*

The **evil** bow before the good...

*Proverbs 14:22*

Do they not err that devise **evil**?

*Proverbs 15: 3*

The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the **evil** and the good.

*Proverbs 17:1*

An **evil** man seeketh only rebellion, therefore a cruel messenger shall be sent against him.

*Proverbs 23:6*

Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an **evil** eye...

<i>Proverbs 24:1</i>	Be thou not envious against (of) <b>evil</b> men, neither desire to be with them.
<i>Proverbs 24:8</i>	He that deviseth to do <b>evil</b> shall be called a mischievous person.
<i>Proverbs 24:19</i>	Fret not thyself because of <b>evil</b> men...
<i>Proverbs 24:20</i>	For there shall be no reward to the <b>evil</b> man...
<i>Proverbs 28:5</i>	<b>Evil</b> men understand not judgment...
<i>Proverbs 29:6</i>	In the transgression of an <b>evil</b> man there is a snare...

## False Witness (*See also liar*)

<i>Websters:</i>	Untruthful, mendacious, uttering what is not true. Not faithful or loyal; treacherous, perfidious, inconstant, deceitful
<i>Hebrew Words:</i>	3577, 4820, 8267
<i>Proverbs 6:19</i>	A <b>false witness</b> that speaketh lies... (doth the Lord hate).
<i>Proverbs 12:17</i>	...a <b>false witness</b> (sheweth forth) deceit.
<i>Proverbs 14:5</i>	...a <b>false witness</b> will utter lies.
<i>Proverbs 19:5, 9</i>	A <b>false witness</b> shall not be unpunished...
<i>Proverbs 21:28</i>	A <b>false witness</b> shall perish...
<i>Proverbs 25:18</i>	A man that beareth <b>false witness</b> against his neighbor is a maul, and a sword and a sharp arrow.

## Flatterer

<i>Websters:</i>	One who flatters, that is to gratify the self love by praise or obsequiousness; to please a person by favorable notice or by anything that exalts him in his own estimation, or confirms his own good opinion of himself.
<i>Hebrew Words:</i>	2505, 2508, 2509, 2513, 6601

<i>Proverbs 2:16</i>	...the strange woman, even from the stranger which <b>flattereth</b> with her words.
<i>Proverbs 6:24</i>	...the <b>flattery</b> of the tongue of a strange woman.
<i>Proverbs 7:5</i>	...the stranger which <b>flattereth</b> with her words;
<i>Proverbs 7:21</i>	...with the <b>flattering</b> of her lips she forced him.
<i>Proverbs 20:19</i>	...meddle not with him that <b>flattereth</b> with his lips.
<i>Proverbs 26:28</i>	...a <b>flattering</b> mouth worketh ruin.
<i>Proverbs 28:23</i>	He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favour than he that <b>flattereth</b> with the tongue.
<i>Proverbs 29:5</i>	A man that <b>flattereth</b> his neighbor spreadeth a net for his feet.

## Fool

<i>Websters:</i>	In scripture, a wicked or depraved person, one who acts contrary to sound wisdom in his moral department.
<i>Hebrew Words:</i>	Fool: 191, 3684, 5036 Foolish: 3687, 5530, 6612
<i>Proverbs 1:7</i>	... <b>fools</b> : despise wisdom and instruction.
<i>Proverbs 1:22</i>	How long... will... <b>fools</b> hate knowledge?
<i>Proverbs 1:32</i>	...the prosperity of <b>fools</b> shall destroy them.
<i>Proverbs 3:35</i>	...shame shall be the promotion of <b>fools</b> .
<i>Proverbs 7:22</i>	...a <b>fool</b> (goes) to the correction of the stocks.
<i>Proverbs 9:13</i>	A <b>foolish</b> woman is clamorous: she is simple and knoweth nothing.
<i>Proverbs 10: 8, 10</i>	...a prating <b>fool</b> shall fall. [prating: idle talker, chatterer]
<i>Proverbs 10:18</i>	He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a <b>fool</b> .
<i>Proverbs 10:21</i>	... <b>fools</b> die for lack of wisdom.
<i>Proverbs 11:29</i>	...the <b>fool</b> shall be servant to the wise of heart.

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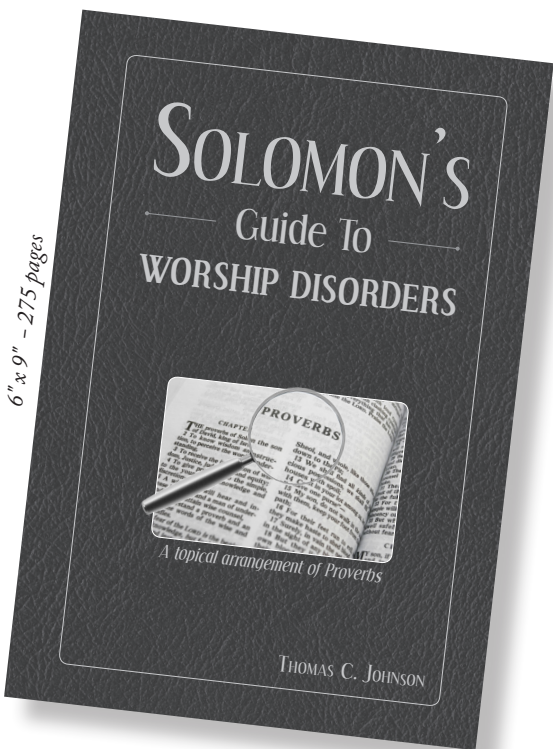
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