

# Proverbs 15:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A scorner loveth not one that reproveth him: neither will he go unto the wise.

## Analysis

A scorner loveth not one that reproveth him: neither will he go unto the wise. Lo ye'ehav-lets lehokiyach lo, **לֹא יָאַהֲבֶלְךָ לְהֹכִין לוֹ**, a scorner does not love one who reproves him). Lets (**צָלָק**, scorner, mocker, scoffer) refuses correction. El-chakhamim lo yelekh (**אֶל-חִכָּמִים לֹא יֵלֶךְ**, to the wise he will not go). Scorners avoid wise people who might confront their folly. This self-imposed isolation from truth guarantees continued foolishness. By contrast, Proverbs 13:20 promises: "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise." Scorners' pride prevents them from seeking wisdom that would save them.

## Historical Context

Ancient wisdom communities included teachers and disciples. Scorners, too proud for instruction, avoided wise mentors. Biblical examples include Rehoboam rejecting elders' counsel (1 Kings 12:8), Pharaoh hardening his heart against Moses (Exodus 7-11), and the Pharisees rejecting Jesus (John 9:40-41). Pride prevents learning. Humility seeks wise counsel (Proverbs 15:22, 19:20).

## Related Passages

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. Do you seek out wise people who will reprove you, or do you avoid those who might confront your sins?
2. What pride might be preventing you from going to the wise for counsel and correction?
3. Who are the wise people in your life, and are you actively pursuing their input and accountability?

## Interlinear Text

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לֹא יָאַהֲבָ לְאַיִלְךָ תַּחֲנֵן הַזָּקָן אֶל לְזִקְנֵתֶךָ  
H3808 loveth H157 A scorner H3887 not one that reproveth H3198 H0 H413 unto the wise H3808 H2450

לֹא יָאַהֲבָ לְאַיִלְךָ תַּחֲנֵן הַזָּקָן אֶל לְזִקְנֵתֶךָ

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## Additional Cross-References

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**Amos 5:10** (Parallel theme): They hate him that rebuketh in the gate, and they abhor him that speaketh uprightly.

**Job 21:14** (Parallel theme): Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways.

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