

Proverbs 18:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom.

Analysis

Isolating oneself to pursue selfish desires demonstrates pride's antisocial tendency. The one who separates rages against sound wisdom, rejecting the counsel and accountability of community. This warns against individualism that spurns the body of Christ's mutual edification.

Historical Context

Ancient society was corporate and interdependent—voluntary isolation was rare and viewed suspiciously. God designed humans for community, making hermit-like separation contrary to creation order.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Where do you isolate yourself to avoid accountability or pursue selfish desires?
2. How can you more fully engage in Christian community for mutual growth?

Interlinear Text

לְתָאֹה	שְׁקֹעַ	נִפְגַּשׁ	בְּכָל	תַּוְשִׁיבְנִי
Through desire	himself seeketh	a man having separated	H3605	with all wisdom
H8378	H1245	H6504		H8454

:עַל־תִּמְלָא!

and intermeddleth

H1566

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 20:3 (Parallel theme): It is an honour for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling.

Proverbs 24:21 (Parallel theme): My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change:

Jeremiah 15:17 (Parallel theme): I sat not in the assembly of the mockers, nor rejoiced; I sat alone because of thy hand: for thou hast filled me with indignation.

Jude 1:19 (Parallel theme): These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

Mark 1:35 (Parallel theme): And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

Proverbs 14:10 (Parallel theme): The heart knoweth his own bitterness; and a stranger doth not intermeddle with his joy.

Proverbs 26:17 (Parallel theme): He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears.

Exodus 33:16 (Parallel theme): For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth.

Matthew 13:44 (Parallel theme): Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

Proverbs 20:19 (Parallel theme): He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org