



# Adult and Teen Life Groups Conferencing Guide

SERMON DATE: 04/29/2018  
DISCUSSION DATE: 05/06/2018  
TEXT: ECCLESIASTES 9:17-10:20

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## I. THE BATTLE FOR WISDOM IS WAR OVER THE AFFECTIONS OF OUR HEART.

*A. Our Affection for Wisdom is far too easily corrupted, v.v. 1-4.*

*B. Our Affection for Wisdom determines the kind of leadership we choose, 10:5-7; 16-20.*

*C. Our Affection for Wisdom should be as persistent as our need, 10:8-11.*

*D. Our Affection for Wisdom changes our speech, v.v. 12-15.*

## ASK GOD FOR WISDOM TO APPLY HIS WORD IN OUR DAILY LIVES.

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We can summarize the purpose of this section as follows: ***The wisest sinner to have ever lived is teaching how to enjoy God's gift of life while embracing our finite/fallen limitations, 6:10-11:6.***

1. **Read Ecclesiastes 6:12 & Jeremiah 6:14.** What do false teachers proclaim that Ecclesiastes 6:12 tells us that it is not possible for them to know?
2. **Read Ecclesiastes 9:13-16.** How does this passage expose the idol of comfort? What do people conclude when life gets comfortable? What cultural factors caused the rejection of the poor man? How do we see these same culture values impacting relationships now?
3. **Read Ecclesiastes 9:16-18.** Why should we value wisdom? What is this wisdom and how do we cultivate our affections for it? Where does this wisdom come from and how do we pursue it?
4. What are we being warned about in 9:18? How should we respond to the warning – i.e. what does it look like when we believe v. 18?
5. **Read Ecclesiastes 10:1-4.** How much damage can a few dead flies (little folly) do to the smell of perfume? What do we consider to be “a little folly?”
6. How do we measure our affections? How do we know if we are walking in the Wisdom that comes from God?
7. What demonstrates the character of a person – if they are wise or foolish? If foolishness can be clearly seen, why does the world around us still approve of so much folly?
8. **Read Ecclesiastes 10:5-7; 16-20.** What happens when a society places fools in the place of power and calls them dignified? What do foolish leaders lack (v. 16, 18)? What do foolish leaders believe (v. 19)?
9. How do we apply this reality to our choice in leaders? In the places we work? How we vote? Who we nominate for office in the church? In whose example we are following (i.e. the hero's we try to emulate)?
10. **Read Ecclesiastes 10:8-11.** How can one moment of folly destroy a life? Can you think of examples/illustrations? What kind of risks do we face every day?
11. What does God want us know about our need for wisdom? How often are we at the throne of grace to ask for His help and wisdom? What does this tell us about the condition of our faith?
12. **Read Ecclesiastes 10:12-15.** How does the wisdom that God gives as a gift change the way we speak? What characterizes the speech of a fool? What characterizes the speech of the wise?
13. **Read Psalm 19:14; 54:2.** Why are the words we speak so important to God? What do wise people do with their words? What do the words we speak reveal about us?