

Introduction: Solomon warns his son about "froward" people.

1. ABNORMAL NATURE OF FROWARD PEOPLE (What is frowardness?)

The description of froward people is characterized by Solomon with four Hebrew words.

A. **"Froward"** (Hebrew "hapak") meaning "turn, crooked, or perversity."

Proverbs 2:12,14; 6:14; 8:13; 10:31-32; 16:28,30; 23:33. (used 118xs in O.T.)

B. **"Froward"** (Hebrew "luz") meaning "depart, turn aside, deviation, or crookedness."

Proverbs 2:15; 3:21,32; 4:21; 14:2.

C. **"Froward"** (Hebrew "aqash") meaning "perverse, crooked, perverted, or wayward."

Proverbs 4:24; 6:12; 8:8; 11:20; 17:20; 19:1; 22:5.

D. **"Froward"** (Hebrew "patal") meaning "twisted."

Proverbs 8:8;

(Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament, by R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer, and Bruce K. Waltke, Vol. 1, pages 221, 472 and Vol. 2, pages 693, 744)

Summary note:

1. These words suggest something or someone is "turned away from the normal or the upright things of life."

(Book of Proverbs, Sid S. Buzzell, as found in The Bible Knowledge Commentary, page 910, 926)

2. The froward person is characterized by "deceit and falsehood."

("Froward" by Merrill F. Unger in Unger's Bible Dictionary, page 382)

2. AFFECTED PARTS OF FROWARD PEOPLE (How is frowardness manifested?)

Froward people have five main areas of their life affected.

A. Proverbs 2:12 = speech

B. Proverbs 2:15 = path or direction in life

C. Proverbs 4:24; 10:32 = mouth

D. Proverbs 6:14; 11:20; 23:33 = heart

"The perverse heart is a twisted mind, i.e., the whole spiritual being is influenced toward evil."

(Book of Proverbs, Crawford Howell Toy, as found in The Expositor's Bible Commentary, page 964)

E. Proverbs 16:30 = eyes

3. APPALLING MANNERS OF FROWARD PEOPLE (How do froward people act?)

Froward people act in at least five ways.

A. Proverbs 6:12 = walks with a perverse mouth

B. Proverbs 6:14 = deviseth evil continually

C. Proverbs 6:14; 16:28 = sows discord

D. Proverbs 14:2 = despises the Lord

E. Proverbs 16:30 = brings about evil

4. ASSESSED POSITION OF FROWARD PEOPLE (How does God view frowardness?)

Froward people are viewed by the Lord in three ways

A. Proverbs 3:32; 11:20 = an abomination to the Lord

NOTE: abomination (Hebrew "to'eba") used 12xs in Proverbs and means a "thing of horror, something to detest or exclude." Abominations were "sure to bring God's wrath on those who practiced them."

("to'eba" by Ronald F. Youngblood in Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament, by R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer, and Bruce K. Waltke, Vol. 2, pages 976-977)

B. Proverbs 8:13 = hated by Solomon and the Lord

5. AWAITING JUDGMENT OF FROWARD PEOPLE (How is frowardness judged?)

Froward people can expect to experience the following judgments.

A. Proverbs 6:15 = sudden calamity

B. Proverbs 6:15 = suddenly broken without remedy

C. Proverbs 10:31 = tongue will be cut out

D. Proverbs 17:20 = falls into evil

E. Proverbs 22:5 = thorns and snares are for the way of the perverse

"A person whose motives and morals are distorted will not prosper (be blessed of God)."

(Book of Proverbs, Sid S. Buzzell, as found in The Bible Knowledge Commentary, page 943)

6. AVOIDING FROWARDNESS (How is frowardness avoided?)

Frowardness can be avoided

A. Proverbs 3:21; 4:21 = don't let wisdom depart from your eyes

B. Proverbs 4:24 = put perversity away from thee

C. Proverbs 8:8 = don't speak perverse things

D. Proverbs 8:13 = practice the fear of the Lord

E. Proverbs 22:5 = keep your soul and be far from perverse things/people

Conclusion: Froward people are found everywhere today. Concerning frowardness we can learn the following facts:

1. one becomes froward when he or she departs from uprightness and the Lord.
2. an individual's speech and personal choices reveal his or her perversity.
3. the life of perversity becomes a rough or difficult life with a terrible ending.
4. perversity can be avoided.