"To Whom Do You Listen?"
Proverbs 1:8-19

C.I.T.—Solomon encourages his "son" to listen to the right influences.
C.I.S.—In order to be wise, you need to chose who will influence you.
Purpose—I want to encourage our people to make a decision about to whom they will listen when making decisions.
Introduction—Solomon's Son Rehoboam—1 Kings 12—faced a choice between listening to the elder or to his friends—it matters to whom you listen.

I. ***Listen to Those Who Love You***. Vs 8-9
   a. Listen and do not forsake—pay attention and follow/obey/use as a guide for life
   b. Instruction/teaching—principles of wisdom
   c. Father and Mother
      i. God given teachers—God ordained that you be born to those parents, and they are the ones that He gave you to learn from.
      ii. Lived a little longer—they have experience that you simply do not have. Please don't forget that they were teenagers once too.
      iii. Love you most of all the world—children are described as a parent's heart walking around outside of their body.
   d. Wreath and necklace
      i. Wreath was a sign of victory
      ii. Necklace was where they would place reminders—guide
      iii. These were symbols of the favor of God on one's life.
      iv. When you follow the teaching of those who love you, you will not regret it.
   e. Illus.—A Wonderful Life—Young George Bailey is facing a problem and sees a sign that says, "Ask Dad, He Knows"
   f. Application
      i. This presupposes godly parents.
      ii. Requires
         1. Parents who are walking with God themselves.
         2. Parents who spend time.
         3. Parents who are intentional.
         4. Parents who are present.
         5. Parents who are consistent.
      iii. There are others who I believe fit in this category of those who love you.
      iv. Youth Ministers, Pastors, Sunday School teachers, older siblings, grandparents
      v. Their godly counsel will guide you to a favored life.
      vi. What if my parents are gone? I have found that their teaching lives beyond them.

II. ***Ignore Those Who Love Themselves***. Vs 10-19
   a. Sinners—those engaged in sinful activity
   b. Entice/seduce you
      i. Tempt unto sin—many times refers to sexual sin
      ii. Intent is to get someone to join them in sinful activity.
   c. Do not consent/go along
      i. Go along infers that you join them.
      ii. They are not concerned about you and your spiritual condition, but in you helping them fulfill their desire.
   d. Example—entice unto unjust gain.
      i. Wait for an innocent person to take their money through bloodshed

ii. Send them to hell alive/completely.
iii. Plunder their goods.
iv. Spread it among one another.
v. Definition of unjust gain.—making a profit in a sinful way—unauthorized way
vi. Examples are stealing, murder, bribery, cheating, gambling

e. The result of unjust gain.
i. They run to evil and pour out blood.
ii. They set a net to entrap others and take their lives.
iii. They do not realize they are setting a trap for themselves.
1. The only way that a bird is caught is if he doesn't know that a net is set.
2. However, if you go along with sinners, you are knowingly getting into that net.
iv. Unjust gain will always result in taking the life of the one gaining.

f. Illus—**1 Kings 12: 6-11**

g. Application
i. When someone entices you to sin, they are not doing it for you, but for themselves.
ii. They appeal to your pride, your self worth, your belonging, your wealth, your fame, but never your good.
iii. They are in it for themselves, and don't care what it causes you.
iv. This will cause you to sin, and in the end will cause you to lose.
v. Why would you want to listen to people like that?

Conclusion

- This one decision by King Rehoboam cause a split in the nation which impacted the next 400 years.
- You have a choice to make, listen to those who love you or to those who love themselves.
- The world is attempting to entice you unto sin, not for your good, but for theirs.
- In the end, you will suffer.
- Who loves you more than Jesus?
- Listen to what He has to say to you.

1 Kings 12:6 Then King Rehoboam consulted with the elders who had served his father Solomon when he was alive, asking, "How do you advise me to respond to this people?" [7] They replied, "Today if you will be a servant to this people and serve them, and if you respond to them by speaking kind words to them, they will be your servants forever." [8] But he rejected the advice of the elders who had advised him and consulted with the young men who had grown up with him and attended him. [9] He asked them, "What message do you advise that we send back to this people who said to me, 'Lighten the yoke your father put on us'?" [10] Then the young men who had grown up with him told him, "This is what you should say to this people who said to you, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you, make it lighter on us! ' This is what you should tell them: 'My little finger is thicker than my father's waist! [11] Although my father burdened you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with barbed whips.'" (1 Ki. 12:6 CSB17)