Wickedness Breeds Wickedness

Intro:
- Pr. 29:4, 6, 12, 14, 16
  - application: wickedness breeds wickedness

  - What can we learn from the fact, that wickedness breeds wickedness?

The wicked overthrow people with their wickedness
- Pr. 29:4 man who takes bribe overthrows the land
  - the wicked overthrow others with their wickedness

- 1 Cor. 15:33 do not be deceived, bad company corrupts good morals
  - stay away from wickedness, or become wicked
    - we turn into that which you keep company with – evil people, evil movies, evil music
  - if we choose to keep company with evil (people, media, etc.), we turn ourselves over to sin to be corrupted by it

- Rom. 12:21 the only way to overcome wickedness is with goodness – proactive against evil
  - wickedness breeds wickedness
  - so the only way to overcome wickedness is with goodness
  - “kill’em with kindness”

The wicked are ensnared by their own wickedness, and the wickedness of others
- Pr. 29:6 by transgression an evil man is ensnared
  - the wicked are ensnared by their own wickedness, and the wickedness of others

- Rom. 6:6, 16-17 we are slaves to sin, if we aren’t faithful Christians
  - enslaved by our own wickedness
  - released by obeying God’s word from the heart (vs. 17)

  - application:
    - the worst life a person can live is a life of sin – the best is righteousness
      - bars and nightclubs: empty, shallow, meaningless
    - when we observe the wicked, we can be assured their wickedness will come back to “bite them”
      - they pay for their wickedness through wickedness
    - ultimate punishment is eternal damnation
If we give into any wickedness, we encourage people around you to act wickedly
- Pr. 29:12 if a ruler pays attention to falsehood, all his ministers become wicked
  - if we give into wickedness, we encourage people around is to act wickedly
    - copy our example
    - do it to get our attention, please us, make us happy

- What will happen if we give into wickedness?
  - Rev. 21:8 spend eternity in hell, second death, lake of fire
  - 1 Cor. 5:1-2, 5-6, 11 corrupt the church and other Christians, unless action taken against us, disfellowshipped
  - Eph. 5:22-25; 6:1-4 destroy family
  - 1 Cor. 15:33 corrupt companions with our wickedness

- importance of our example of life: church, family, friends, community
  - we are either helping people get to heaven or to hell
  - if we give into wickedness, we are helping them get to hell

The only way you can positively impact people is to live and speak the truth
- Pr. 29:14 if king judges the poor with truth, his throne will be established forever
  - the only way you can positively impact people is to live and speak the truth

- Eph. 4:14-16 speak the truth in love, the only way to build people up – only way to build up the church
  - Col. 4:6 speech always with grace, as though seasoned with salt
  - 1 Pet. 3:15 make a defense, give reason for hope, yet with gentleness and reverence
  - evil tears people down, but truth lifts them up

The more wicked people are involved with a particular thing, the more wicked it becomes
- Pr. 29:16 when the wicked increase, transgressions increase
  - the more wicked people are involved with a particular thing, the more wicked it becomes

- illus.: family, government, business, school, community projects
  - look at the people (esp. the top) - if they’re wicked, the organization is wicked
  - to have the highest quality organization (family, business, etc.) keep wickedness out & righteousness in
  - be selective when attaching yourself to an organization – choose less wicked, most righteous

- illus.: church
  - if wicked people are in a church, the church is wicked
    - not exercising church discipline
  - only way to have a successful church is to exercise disciple – keep wickedness out & righteousness in

- importance of our lives in the world as disciples of Christ
  - Matt. 5:13-16 salt of earth, light to world, men see our good works and glorify Father in heaven
  - Christians: influence of the world, preserving it from destruction (salt), guiding to righteousness (light)
Summary / Inv.

- **summary**
  - choosing wicked companion, choosing to be wicked
  - the wicked are ensnared by their own wickedness
  - if we give into wickedness, we encourage other people to act wickedly
  - the only way you can positively impact people is to live and speak the truth
  - the more wicked people are involved with a particular thing, the more wicked it becomes

- **as wickedness breeds wickedness, goodness breeds goodness**
  - **2 Tim. 2:22** flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart
  - **Heb. 10:24-25** let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another

- **inv.:** only way to make a positive impact on your life and others is to be a Christian