

“Bettering Ourselves”

Proverbs 15:16-18



The first 7 chapters of Proverbs seems to have been written as instruction for a son of Solomon, most likely his heir Rehoboam . Clearly Solomon saw flaws in the character of Rehoboam which would come to haunt Rehoboam's reign.

Solomon by Gustave Dore

Garrison Church of God

Aug. 28, 2022

“Bettering Ourselves”

Proverbs 15:16-18



In Ecclesiastes, Solomon in veiled laments speaks passing to his successor his hard won achievements. Clearly, he saw something amiss with his son. Perhaps Rehoboam was the ultimate spoiled rich kid.

Solomon by Gustave Dore

Garrison Church of God

Aug. 28, 2022

Proverbs 15:16-18 [ESV]

16 Better is a little with the **fear** of the LORD than great treasure and **trouble** with it.

17 Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a fattened ox and **hatred** with it.

18 A hot-tempered man stirs up **strife**, but he who is slow to anger quiets **contention**.

“Bettering Ourselves”

Proverbs 15:16-18



We live in a world where these Proverbs are not heeded. We see in the case of Rehoboam, who was born into a wealthy successful home where his every need and desire was catered to, a man who resented his father.

Solomon by Gustave Dore

Garrison Church of God

Aug. 28, 2022

1 Kings 12:8-11 [ESV]

8 But he abandoned the counsel that the old men gave him and took counsel with the young men who had grown up with him and stood before him.

9 And he said to them, "What do you advise that we answer this people who have said to me, 'Lighten the yoke that your father put on us'?"

1 Kings 12:8-11 [ESV]

10 And the young men who had grown up with him said to him, "Thus shall you speak to this people who said to you, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you lighten it for us,' thus shall you say to them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's thighs.

11 And now, whereas my father laid on you a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.'"

“Bettering Ourselves”

Proverbs 15:16-18



Formal Tuxedo

The tuxedo is named for Tuxedo Club in Tuxedo Park NY. In 1886 it was introduced by scions of wealthy powerful industrialist families at this club. The black bowtie was considered too informal among the elite.

“Bettering Ourselves”

Proverbs 15:16-18



Formal Tuxedo

White tie and a coat with tails were expected at formal events and suppers in the Victorian elite circles. The 1st appearance scandalized the upper classes of New York. But by 1888 it was accepted as a less formal attire for dinner occasions.

“Bettering Ourselves”

Proverbs 15:16-18

These events came to be known as “Black Tie Only” meaning wearing a tuxedo with cummerbund black pants with a satin stripe, white shirt, black tie and black leather shoes. In the 20th century, it applied to all exclusive events.



Tuxedo Ad early 20th century
Garrison Church of God

Aug. 28, 2022

Principle 1: Reverence for God.

We live in a modern world driven by attitudes that are polar opposite to these. We do not reverence God. The Hebrew word for “fear” is a very broad word that conveys, like our word, “fear or terror”, but it also conveys the concept as reverence and respect. In the Hebrew mind we come to God who is an all-powerful sovereign who has life and death power over us for good or ill. Our reverence is based on this knowledge of who God is.

Principle 1: Reverence for God.

One of the troubling aspects of Christianity in the USA during the last 50 years has been this loss of a sense of reverence for God. In some Christian circles He has become a pet or a Magic Genie who gives us what we think we need. He ceases to be the Creator who has power of life and death, the One who executes justice. He has become at best a “good buddy” at worst a “slave” to our desires.

Principle 1: Reverence for God.

While God is loving, self-sacrificial and merciful toward us it is not a sign of His weakness. Instead, it is a sign of His purposeful self-control and grace. Throughout the book of Proverbs, we are enjoined to “fear the Lord”. In fact, “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” Proverbs 9:10.

Romans 3:10-18 [ESV]

10 ... as it is written: "None is righteous, no,
not one; 11 no one understands; no one
seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside;
together they have become worthless; no one
does good, not even one." 13 "Their throat is
an open grave; they use their tongues to
deceive." "The venom of asps is under their
lips." 14 "Their mouth is full of curses and
bitterness."

Romans 3:10-18 [ESV]

15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood;
16 in their paths are ruin and misery, 17 and
the way of peace they have not known." 18
"There is no fear of God before their eyes."

[Paul quotes from Psalm 14]

“Bettering Ourselves”

Proverbs 15:16-18

The Bowtie developed in the early 1800s as a throwback to the original bow shaped Cravat of the early 1600s. All neckties developed from the Cravat. It developed during the 30 years war in the 1630s among Croatian Mercenary soldiers. It was copied by French soldiers.



Types of Bowties

“Bettering Ourselves”

Proverbs 15:16-18

**The purpose of any tie is
decoration to increase the
importance of the individual.**



Types of Bowties

Garrison Church of God

Aug. 28, 2022

Principle 2: Affection and kindness toward friends and family...

The 2nd thing Solomon challenges us with is the relationships of those who are the closest to us. We may be successful in many endeavors in life but if we have destruction in the relationships that are closest to us, we are miserable. We have now 4 generations who have sacrificed family and friends to pursue success, pleasure and personal gain. Along the way we have lost the importance of friendship, the joy of family and the honor of integrity.

Principle 2: Affection and kindness toward friends and family...

The culture in the United States shows clearly the destructive effects of this attitude.

Genesis 13:5-8 [ESV]

5 And Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents, 6 so that the land could not support both of them dwelling together; for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together, 7 and there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites were dwelling in the land.

8 Then Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are kinsmen.

HISTORY of the NECKTIE

17th Century

1630s



CROATIAN
CRAVAT

1692



FRENCH
STEINKIRK

18th Century

1715s



STOCK TIE

19th Century

1800s



ASCOT TIE



BOW TIE

20th Century

1924



LANGSDORF
NECKTIE

1940s



BOLO TIE

1950s



SKINNY TIE

1970s



KIPPER TIE

BOWS-N-TIES

“Bettering Ourselves”

Proverbs 15:16-18

The necktie was born in one of the most consequential wars of Europe. The 30 Years War, 1618-48. It was an economic, political and social conflict dressed by its instigators as a holy war between competing Christian sects.

Aug. 28, 2022

HISTORY of the NECKTIE

17th Century

1630s



CROATIAN
CRAVAT

1692



FRENCH
STEINKIRK

18th Century

1715s



STOCK TIE

19th Century

1800s



ASCOT TIE



BOW TIE

20th Century

1924



LANGSDORF
NECKTIE

1940s



BOLO TIE

1950s



SKINNY TIE

1970s



KIPPER TIE

BOWS-N-TIES

“Bettering Ourselves”

Proverbs 15:16-18

This war directly led to modern culture. The concept of the nation state was born in this war, as was the concept of Religious Tolerance. But great evil was also born, Statism which views the State as all powerful and Modern Atheism.

Aug. 28, 2022

Principle 3: Good humor and affability toward others.

When the first 2 principles were threadbare, it impacts our community. **Civility** toward others disappears. We take pleasure in turmoil and conflict. Generosity, humor, self-deprecation and good will toward others leaks through the cracks in the “melting pot” of society.

Galatians 5:13-15 [ESV]

13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

15 But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

“Bettering Ourselves” Proverbs 15:16-18

If we are to see a real turn around in our culture these 3 things must be addressed. When we ask God for revival or renewal in our culture this is where it begins with.



Self Tie Bowties

Garrison Church of God

Aug. 28, 2022

1 Chronicles 12:1 & 14-15 [ESV]

12:1 When the rule of Rehoboam was established and he was strong, he abandoned the law of the LORD, and all Israel with him.

...

14 And he did evil, for he did not set his heart to seek the LORD.

15 Now the acts of Rehoboam, from first to last, are they not written in the chronicles of Shemaiah the prophet and of Iddo the seer? There were continual wars between Rehoboam and Jeroboam.

"Bettering Ourselves" Proverbs 15:16-18



3 Principles:
1. Reverence
toward God.
2. Affection
toward friends
and family.
3. Good humor
toward others.

Self Tie Bowties

Garrison Church of God

Aug. 28, 2022