

Today's Scripture: **Prov 1:8-19**

The Pull to Belong Causes Many a Wrong

1. Do Follow Wise Parents (Prov 1:8-9)
2. Don't Follow Foolish Peers (Prov 1:10-18)

1. Do Follow Wise Parents (Prov 1:8-9)

2. Don't Follow Foolish Peers (Prov 1:10-18)

"I believe that in all men's lives at certain periods, and in many men's lives at all periods between infancy and extreme old age, one of the most dominant elements is the desire to be inside the local Ring and the terror of being left outside. My main purpose in this address is simply to convince you that this desire is one of the great permanent mainsprings of human action. Unless you take measures to prevent it, this desire is going to be one of the chief motives of your life.

The prophecy I make is this. To nine out of ten of you the choice which could lead to scoundrelism will come, when it does come, in no very dramatic colors. Over a drink or a cup of coffee, disguised as a triviality and sandwiched between two jokes, from the lips of a man, or woman, whom you have recently been getting to know rather better and whom you hope to know better still - just at the moment when you are most anxious not to appear crude, or naive, or a prig - the hint will come.

It will be the hint of something which is not quite in accordance with the technical rules of fair play: something which the public, the ignorant, romantic public, would never understand: something which

even the outsiders in your own profession are apt to make a fuss about: but something, says your new friend, which "**we**"-and at the word "**we**" you try not to blush for mere pleasure - something "**we**" always do."

And you will be drawn in, if you are drawn in, not by desire for gain or ease, but simply because at that moment, when the cup was so near your lips, you cannot bear to be thrust back again into the cold outer world.

It would be so terrible to see the other man's face - that genial, confidential, delightfully sophisticated face - turn suddenly cold and contemptuous, **to know that you had been tried for the Inner Ring and rejected.**

And then, if you are drawn in, next week it will be something a little further from the rules, and next year something further still, but all in the jolliest, friendliest spirit. It may end in a crash, a scandal, and penal servitude: it may end in millions, a peerage and giving the prizes at your old school.

But you will be a scoundrel. Of all the passions the passion for the Inner Ring is most skillful in making a man who is not yet a very bad man do very bad things." **C.S.Lewis "The Inner Ring"**

"Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness. **Their feet are swift to shed blood**; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes."

Romans 3:14-18

God's purpose in all this was to use **the church** to display *his wisdom* in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the

heavenly places. This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord. **Ephesians 3:10-11 NLT**