

**Established and Abounding**  
**Proverbs 12:1-15**  
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**INTRODUCTION**

The World rages in turmoil, but Proverbs 12:1-15 gives a sound plan for a stable life with a house that will stand (Vs 7) favored by God (Vs 2), delivered (Vs 13), and satisfied (Vs 14). What a life! The Doctrine of Life teaches us a path to this blessed stability. And more than this, Proverbs teaches us the way to a fruitful life; with a root that will not be moved (Vs 3), we can be fruitful (Vs 12).

We don't want a life that is calm but fruitless. Instability in life is scary, but vanity in life is worse. One living a stable but vain life is quietly, comfortably wasting day after day, year after year. And at the end of their life, they will have with nothing to show. The wise learn to escape both instability and vanity. And if you will hear the Doctrine of Life, you can be wise.

**Proverbs 12:1 and 15**

Vs 1 and 15 enclose this section with one of the foundational truths of Proverbs: the wise love to be taught by others, but the foolish hate to be corrected.

This is the admonition that saves lives: *hear instruction!*

**Proverbs 12:1-7 Stability and Fruitfulness comes from God**

**Vs 2-3** Stability and fruitfulness come from God alone. To be established and fruitful, live in accord with His character. How do we do this?

**Vs 2** Be good and don't fall for the promise of easy money though evil.

*Do right and God will establish you!*

**Vs 4** Prioritize God's will when looking for a spouse. The right spouse will be a wonderful help, but a bad spouse will have a cancerous effect on your life. Keep in mind that you are absolutely dependent on God's help in finding a good spouse. "House and riches are the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife is from the LORD (Prov 19:14)."

*To be stable and fruitful, make Godliness a priority in your relationships!*

**Vs 5-6** Wickedness and Righteousness start in the heart and work their way out into speech.

*Go after Godliness in your inner life!*

**Proverbs 12:8-10 Relationships**

So stability and fruitfulness flow from Godly wisdom. Vs 8-10 provide three pieces of Godly wisdom that will help in stable, fruitful relationships.

**Vs 8** If you want the right people to notice you, seek wisdom. Those who walk a twisted path are noticed, but for the wrong reasons.

*If you want to develop stable and fruitful in relationships*

**Vs 9** “Despised” here is a different work than in Vs 8. This person is not hated, but just not taken seriously; they are lightly esteemed. The point is that what people think of you, and especially what you think of yourself, is not the only thing that matters.

*If you want to be stable and fruitful in relationships, don't put too much weight on human opinion – especially your own!*

**Vs 10** The benevolence and goodwill of a righteous person extend to every member of their house, even the animals. The wicked are the exact opposite, the closest thing they have to compassion is cruelty.

*If you want to be stable and fruitful, show care and mercy to everyone and everything that God has given you dominion over.*

*Also, notice that way that people treat the weakest around them – this speaks much of their character.*

### **Proverbs 12:11-14 Work**

Verse 11 through 14 provide guidance on being established and abundant in work.

**Vs 11** Material good is the natural result of hard, honest work. Many people lead away from work by people planning useless schemes or making unkeepable promises,

**Vs 12-13** The righteous produce fruit for themselves and others, but the wicked are consumed with the idea of trapping and exploiting. They will not catch the just, but they will be trapped by their own sins.

**Vs 14** The work of your mouth and the work of your hands will both come back upon you; good for good or evil for evil.

*To be established and fruitful in work, abide in honest, good work. Don't be led astray by people promising an easier way by taking advantage of others.*

### **CONCLUSION**

The way to be established and fruitful is simple and practical:

*Start by being teachable.*

*Go after Godliness.*

*Don't worry too much about what people think of you. Seek wisdom and show mercy, and the right people will notice you.*

*Don't follow evil plans or foolish schemes in business. It's good to be creative and try new things, but you must abide in honest, hard work. What you say and what you do will come back upon you. And at the end of all things, be teachable!*