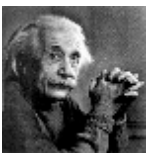


The Beginning of Wisdom



*"From where then does
wisdom come? And where
is the place of understanding?"*

- Job 28:20



The Beginning of Wisdom

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1. A Basis For Our "Understanding"

Proverbs 1:1-6 (NKJ)

The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:

- 2 To know wisdom and instruction, to perceive the words of understanding,
- 3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment, and equity;
- 4 To give prudence to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion --
- 5 A wise man will hear and increase learning, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel,
- 6 To understand a proverb and an enigma, the words of the wise and their riddles.



Q1: The following words are described in Proverbs 1:1-6 as things that will be attained, acquired and 'lived out' as a result of reading and living by the proverbs...it is important that we define each one!

Wisdom	<i>chokmah</i>	The ability to ju_____ correctly and to follow the b_____ course of action, based on the correct ap_____ of knowledge and understanding Chokmah implies to pound in by continuous study!
Instruction	<i>muwcar</i>	A disci_____ that that teaches how to live in the fear of the Lord so that the wise man learns his lessons be_____ encountering temptation and trials
Perceive	<i>biyn</i>	To disc_____ something in such a way as to be able to cons_____ it, thi_____ it through and then be able to use it in the future
Understanding	<i>biynah</i>	The act of kn_____ what one should know to go thorough life
Judgment	<i>mishpat</i>	A combination of skill, discretion, and common se_____ enabling you to come to cor_____ conclusions.
Prudence	<i>'ormah</i>	In a good sense, shrew_____ or craftiness, so that you are not easily dec_____ by what appears on the surface to be good
Knowledge	<i>Da'ath</i>	To know by obser_____ and reflecting as well as to know by personally expe_____ it
Discretion	<i>mezimmah</i>	A purposeful 'thin_____ through' of something to come to a correct conclusion about it

Definitions from the Thomas Nelson Bible Dictionary and Vine's Expository Dictionary

Proverb: *mashal* (maw-shawl'); a pithy saying, usually of metaphorical nature; hence, a simile (as an adage, poem, discourse); often of 2 lines each. *Like a pole against which a plan grows...*

2. What is Wisdom and Where Does it Come From?

Job 28:12-28 (NKJV)

"But where can wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding? 13 Man does not know its value, nor is it found in the land of the living. 14 The deep says, 'It is not in me'; And the sea says, 'It is not with me.' 15 It cannot be purchased for gold, nor can silver be weighed for its price. 16 It cannot be valued in the gold of Ophir, in precious onyx or sapphire. 17 Neither gold nor crystal can equal it, nor can it be exchanged for jewelry of fine gold. 18 No mention shall be made of coral or quartz, for the price of wisdom is above rubies. 19 The topaz of Ethiopia cannot equal it, nor can it be valued in pure gold.



Q1: According to Scripture, what conclusions can you draw from where wisdom does NOT come from? List at least three points that this Scripture makes.

20 "From where then does wisdom come? And where is the place of understanding? 21 It is hidden from the eyes of all living, and concealed from the birds of the air. 22 Destruction and Death say, 'We have heard a report about it with our ears.' 23 God understands its way, and He knows its place. 24 For He looks to the ends of the earth, and sees under the whole heavens, 25 To establish a weight for the wind, and apportion the waters by measure. 26 When He made a law for the rain, and a path for the thunderbolt, 27 Then He saw wisdom and declared it; he prepared it, indeed, He searched it out.

Q2: According to Scripture, what additional conclusions can you draw from where wisdom does and does not come from? List at least three points that this Scripture makes.

28 And to man He said, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding.'"

Q3: What does "the fear of the Lord" really mean? What would be some examples in our lives today that would illustrate someone living 'in the fear of the Lord'?

3. How Do You "Get" Wisdom?

1 Kings 4:29-34 (NIV)

God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. v30 Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the men of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. v31 He was wiser than any other man, including Ethan the Ezrahite - wiser than Heman, Calcol and Darda, the sons of Mahol. And his fame spread to all the surrounding nations. v32 He spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs numbered a thousand and five. v33 He described plant life, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of walls. He also taught about animals and birds, reptiles and fish. v34 Men of all nations came to listen to Solomon's wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom.



How great was Solomon's wisdom? How many grains of sand are in all of the seashores?

Q1: What are Solomon's credentials regarding wisdom?

- § It was given to him by _____ and did not come from himself
- § Along with wisdom, he got the tools to use it correctly (ins _____ and und _____)
- § His wisdom exceeded that of the combined wisdom of the two leading cultures of the day
- § He spoke _____ proverbs (were they all recorded in Scripture? _____)
- § Metaphorically, his proverbs covered the sm _____ things (hyssop) to the gr _____ (cedar) and covered the entire realm of all that is li _____ (animals, birds, reptiles and fish)
- § As a result of his wisdom, people of _____ came to lea _____ from him

2 Chronicles 1:6-12 (NIV)

Solomon went up to the bronze altar before the LORD in the Tent of Meeting and offered a thousand burnt offerings on it. v7 That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you." v8 Solomon answered God, "You have shown great kindness to David my father and have made me king in his place. v9 Now, LORD God, let your promise to my father David be confirmed, for you have made me king over a people who are as numerous as the dust of the earth. v10 Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

Q2: How did Solomon view God, both before speaking to Him and in response to God's question? What could he have asked God for, and why do you think he asked God for what he asked?

Q3: What are the practical applications for us in this passage?

v11 God said to Solomon, "Since this is your heart's desire and you have not asked for wealth, riches or honor, nor for the death of your enemies, and since you have not asked for a long life but for wisdom and knowledge to govern my people over whom I have made you king, v12 therefore wisdom and knowledge will be given you. And I will also give you wealth, riches and honor, such as no king who was before you ever had and none after you will have."

Q3: According to this passage, what does God provide to Solomon along with what he asks for? Does God do this as a special 'one-time' offer to Solomon because of how he asked?

Proverbs 3:14-16 (NIV) Wisdom comes with her hands full!

{wisdom} is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. v15 She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. v16 Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor.

The story so far...

- § The ONLY place wisdom can be found is in God's Word, because wisdom comes from God
- § The BEGINNING of wisdom is the reverence of God
- § God gives us wisdom so we can be equipped for *living*



Joshua 1:7-8 (NIV) - God's directives to Joshua after the death of Moses:

Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. v8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Q4: What are the practical applications of this passage? What happens to get us to focus on the right hand or the left hand? What ultimately happens to us when we do? Was that what happened to Solomon at the end of his life?


[How we can obtain wisdom today..](#)

James 1:5 (NIV)

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

- § We have to understand our I_____ (not prideful) and turn to the sou_____
- § God provides it gen_____; therefore we get more than enough
- § God does not get mad at us when we ad_____ we are dependent upon Him

4. The Structure of Proverbs

 <p>The Hebrew word for wisdom is chokmah, which literally means to "pound in" by repetition!</p>	<p>There are 31 chapters of Proverbs. Most months have 31 days. If we are to obtain wisdom by "pounding in" does it not make sense for us to learn by reading a chapter a day?</p> <p>It is the "pounding in" day after day that will give us the wisdom necessary to make consistently wise decisions for the way that we live our lives...</p>
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Proverbs are 2-line p_____ that are useful in helping us learn wisdom. We learn by repe_____ first from our parents and later on from our teachers...

Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV)

Train up a child in the way he should go,

Train up = chanak; to train up, initiate or discipline, as one would initiate a new-born in nursing its mother (smear date paste in a newborn's mouth to prompt the sucking response).

And when he is old he will not depart from it.

- Thus topically we should view the Book of Proverbs as a parent instructing us...

Q1: Who wrote the Book of Proverbs? (remember, chapter and verse designations are man-made)

- Chapters 1 - 9 identify themselves as written by _____
- Chapters 10 - 24 identify themselves as written by _____
- Chapters 25 - 29 identify themselves as proverbs of _____
- Chapter 30 identifies itself as being the sayings of _____
- Chapter 31 identifies itself as being the sayings of _____

Six types of proverbs:

1. *synonymous* - both lines say the sa_____ thing but each in a little dif_____ way

Proverbs 11:25 - A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

Proverbs 11:29 - He who brings trouble on his family will inherit only wind, and the fool will be servant to the wise.

Proverbs 11:30 - The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.

Q2: Who is the fruit of your righteousness?

Q3: What is a "tree of life?"

2. *antithetical* - a thought is given in line 1 while the negative res_____ is given in line 2

§ you always find a b_____

Proverbs 14:30 - A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.



All believers are to exhibit the fruit of the spirit, which includes peace and joy (both of which are medical prerequisites to a healthy life!)

Proverbs 17:22 - A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

§ There is a dir_____ con_____ between our health and attitudes Q4:

Why is this a 'repeat' of the prior verse?

Proverbs 15:5 - A fool spurns his father's discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence.

§ "When I was 8, my dad was brilliant, at 18 I was amazed at how dumb he got, but when I was 28 he got brilliant again!"

3. *synthetic* - both lines teach a dif_____ thought but upon careful inspection you discover that the two seemingly disparate thoughts are con_____ (this is the rarest type of proverb)

§ *fool* - one who keeps his mouth open when it should be shut and shut when it should be open

Proverbs 10:18 - He who conceals his hatred has lying lips, and whoever spreads slander is a fool.

4. *integral* - the second line comp_____ the thought of the first line so that the whole thing looks like one complete thought

Proverbs 13:14 - The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death.

Proverbs 19:20 - Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise.

Proverbs 22:6 - Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

§ When someone yo_____ learns a lesson s/he will benefit from it throughout their lifetime

§ Note: THE way, not many ways!

5. *parabolic* - the first line illustrates _____ the second (the teaching), the first line is the analogy
Proverbs 11:22 - Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion.

Q5: What is this verse saying?

Q6: What are two specific applications of this verse for us?



Proverbs 25:25 - Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land.

Proverbs 26:9 - Like a thorn bush in a drunkard's hand is a proverb in the mouth of a fool.

6. *comparative* - the first line expresses something as better than what is in the second line
- key word in a comparative proverb is _____

Proverbs 15:16 - Better a little with the fear of the LORD than great wealth with turmoil.

Q6: How does Proverbs 10:22 support what is said in 15:16?

Proverbs 15:17 - Better a meal of vegetables where there is love than a fattened calf with hatred.

Q7: How does this verse stack up against the statement that the way to a man's heart is through his stomach?

Proverbs 17:1 - Better a dry crust (moldy piece of bread) with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife.

Proverbs 21:9 - It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.

Proverbs' Structure: A Self-Commentary

The first seven verses of Proverbs 1 are a self-commentary...

<u>Proverbs 1:1-7 (KJV)</u>	
1	The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel;
2	To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;
3	To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;
4	To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.
5	A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:
6	To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.
7	The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

- § Instruction - 'discipline' - to learn by discipline
 - Ex. of discipline: daily dev_____
 - § Knowledge - the ability to obt_____ the facts
 - § Understanding - the ability to arr_____ the facts
 - § Wisdom - the ability to u_____ the facts
 - § Treating others impar_____ requires discipline
 - § Subtilty - *tachbulah* - guidance, a plan
 - § Simple = simple minded
- Q8: Why does a young person need discretion?
- Q9: How does wisdom help the learned and wise?
- Q10: Explain verse six.

An application of Proverbs 1:5-7 is found in Proverbs 9:7-10...

Proverbs 9:7-8a - He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself, and he who rebukes a wicked man only harms himself. Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you;

§ Scoffer - one who scorns, says "Church is for weaklings" or "God doesn't exist"

§ Wicked man - one who acts with evil and malice; a criminal

Q10: What specific direction do you get on how to not handle a scoffer or a wicked person, knowing that your ultimate mission is to win them to the Lord? Instead, what should you do?

Proverbs 9:8b-9 - Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

Q11: What specific applications can be made about this passage?

5. The "Person" of Wisdom

Who or what is "Wisdom?"

Proverbs 8:22-35 KJV

- 22 The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old.
- 23 I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.
- 24 When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water.
- 25 Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth:
- 26 While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world.
- 27 When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth:
- 28 When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep:
- 29 When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth:
- 30 Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him;
- 31 Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men.
- 32 Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways.
- 33 Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not.
- 34 Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.
- 35 For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD.



§ Verse 22: in = this word was added by the translators; there is NO WORD here in the original text, so you should read it:

§ Compare with John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God!"

Q1: Who (or what) does Scripture say "Wisdom" is? What specifically can you learn about the origins of "Wisdom?"

Q2: Explain the 'joy' and the 'delight' connections in verses 30 and 31.

Q3: What are the key lessons of verses 32 - 35?

Q4: Why is wisdom portrayed as a woman in the Book of Proverbs?

Solomon

§ Son of David & Bathsheba
 § 700 wives
 § 300 concubines
 § among these 1,000 no record of any being an Israelite
 § eventually turned from being wise to appeasing his wives and following after the gods of his wives

Q5: If godly wisdom is seen as a woman, why is worldly wisdom seen as an adulteress or prostitute?

Q6: According to Scripture, where does wisdom go? Does it:

- a. Stay in the Bible?
- b. Stay in church?
- c. Stay in the home?
- d. Follow you wherever you go?

Proverbs 1:20-33 KJV

20 Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets:

21 She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, saying,

22 How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?

23 Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

24 Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

25 But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:

26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;

27 When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

28 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:

30 They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

31 Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.

32 For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.

33 But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

§ Without = ou_____; literally outside the place where wisdom is

§ In the streets = where people cong_____

§ Colossians 4:5 - Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. KJV

§ Simple = stu_____ or slow witted

§ Scorer = unbeliever who m_____ the Word

§ Fool = knows better but cho_____ wrong

§ v23: If you rep_____ at Wisdom's reproof and get bo_____ again, God's Spirit will guide you.

Q7: How is the law of reaping and sowing illustrated by verses 24-31?

Q8: How do you reconcile a 'loving God' with this passage?

§ A fools prosperity is usually fast, and his loss is equally as fast, since he known not how to handle it... (lessons from Lottery winners)

§ You stick with wisdom, it sticks with you to enable the Christian to handle calamity

6. The BIG "If-Then"

Proverbs 2: 1-22 (NIV)

- 1 My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you,
- 2 turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding,
- 3 and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding,
- 4 and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure,
- 5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

IF- THEN

A conditional statement that guarantees the fulfillment of the 'then' when the condition (the 'if') occurs. The guarantee is as solid as the character of the guarantor.

Q1: Diagram the progression of the 'if' actions, beginning with the attitude(s) of "my son" and ending with the action(s) he has taken.

Q2: Does this process work for the unbeliever as well as the believer, or is it conditional upon being a Christian only?

- 6 For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.
- 7 He holds victory in store for the upright; he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless,
- 8 for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.

Q3: Of what specific things is the Lord the sole author and provider?

- 9 Then you will understand what is right and just and fair--every good path.
- 10 For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.
- 11 Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.
- 12 Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse,
- 13 who leave the straight paths to walk in dark ways,
- 14 who delight in doing wrong and rejoice in the perverseness of evil,
- 15 whose paths are crooked and who are devious in their ways.
- 16 It will save you also from the adulteress, from the wayward wife with her seductive words,
- 17 who has left the partner of her youth and ignored the covenant she made before God.
- 18 For her house leads down to death and her paths to the spirits of the dead.
- 19 None who go to her return or attain the paths of life.

Q4: How specifically do 'wicked men' and adulteresses' pose a threat to your walk, and how does wisdom protect you from them?

- 20 Thus you will walk in the ways of good men and keep to the paths of the righteous.
- 21 For the upright will live in the land, and the blameless will remain in it;
- 22 but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the unfaithful will be torn from it.

7. Portrait of a Fool

Proverbs 22:15a NKJ: Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child but the rod of correction will drive it far from him.

§ While you'd excuse a child, in an adult it's a different story

"fool" in
Proverbs

nabal - one who is wicked and immoral (17:7-21)

'evil - hasty, impatient, quick to anger and to speak without thinking (1:7, 12:15)

kecil - self-confident, slow to see own faults, hates instruction (1:22, 14:16)

Careless Feet - doesn't look where he's walking, repeats mistakes often

Proverbs 14:15 (NIV) A simple man believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his steps.

Proverbs 22:3 (Msg) A prudent person sees trouble coming and ducks; a simpleton walks in blindly and is clobbered.

Proverbs 12:15 (NIV) The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.

Characteristics of foolish behavior:

Practical examples of how this might be lived out:

Quick Fists - quick to respond in anger or to quarrel or fight

Proverbs 18:6 (NLT) Fools get into constant quarrels; they are asking for a beating.

Proverbs 20:3 (NIV) It is to a man's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel.

Proverbs 14:29 (NIV) A patient man has great understanding, but a quick-tempered man displays folly.

Proverbs 12:16 (NIV) A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult.

Characteristics of foolish behavior:

Practical examples of how this might be lived out:

Loose Lips - gossips, runs off at the mouth, says things without thinking, quick to speak

Proverbs 14:3 (NIV) A fool's talk brings a rod to his back, but the lips of the wise protect them.

Proverbs 26:20 (NKJ) Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; and where there is no talebearer, strife ceases.

Proverbs 17:28 (NIV) Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue.

Proverbs 18:6-7a (NIV) A fool's lips bring him strife, and his mouth invites a beating. His mouth is his undoing

Proverbs 29:11 (NIV) A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control.

Characteristics of foolish behavior:



What's Your Anger Level?

You respond in anger when:

- o Level 1 – you are ignored
(“nobody even noticed what I did!”)
- o Level 2 – you are insulted
(“how dare you say that to me!”)
- o Level 3 – you are caused to have pain
(mental, physical, or verbal)

The #1 characteristic of Jesus (Whom we are to emulate) during His trial and crucifixion was to remain silent to the insults and pain caused by others...even to the point of having the High Priest, Herod and Pilate all marvel at this.

Roaming Eyes - looking for answers in all the wrong places

Proverbs 17:24 (NIV) A discerning man keeps wisdom in view, but a fool's eyes wander to the ends of the earth.

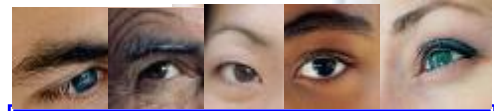
Proverbs 26:12 (NIV) Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Proverbs 27:20 (NIV) Death and Destruction are never satisfied, and neither are the eyes of man.

Proverbs 30:12 (NIV) those who are pure in their own eyes and yet are not cleansed of their filth;

Proverbs 27:12 (NIV) The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.

Characteristics of foolish behavior:



Do the Eyes Have It?

Three kinds of roaming eyes that look for answers in the wrong places:

- o Material eyes – focus on things (“I’d be a lot happier if I had...!”)
- o Distracted eyes – move from fad to fad (“what I need is a new.....!”)
- o Lustful eyes – drawn to sin (“no harm in just looking...”)

Bible scholars have pointed out that while faith comes by hearing the Word of God, our eyes seem to be the gates that Satan uses to tempt us. Eve saw the apple, David saw Bathsheba, and 1 Jn 2:16 tells us the lust of the eyes is of this world.

Practical steps we can take to secure our “eye gates:”

Plugged Ears - one who hears but does not listen because his/her ears are plugged up

Child: “I’m not listening na na na na na na...” vs. *Adult:* “Thanks for sharing that...” and then ignores it

Proverbs 15:5 (NKJV) A fool despises his father's instruction, but he who receives correction is prudent.

Proverbs 17:10 (NKJV) Rebuke is more effective for a wise man than a hundred blows on a fool.

Proverbs 18:2 (NKJV) A fool has no delight in understanding, but in expressing his own heart.

Proverbs 18:13 (NKJV) He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him.

Proverbs 19:27 (NKJV) Cease listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge.

Proverbs 28:9 (NKJV) One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.

Proverbs 13:10 (NIV) Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

If your ears are ‘plugged,’ you won’t be able to detect this quality in your life because you won’t listen!

I know I’m teachable when...

- o I get a lot of input from people who tell me things to help me
- o I’m seeing measurable growth and character development in myself
- o I don’t answer my critics with defensive statements or attitudes
- o I don’t feel obligated to return the favor when someone criticizes me
- o I hear different suggestions, not the same old ones I’m not learning!

Characteristics of foolish behavior:

Practical steps we can take to unplug our ears:

8. Working in Wisdom

work: providing necessary res_____ through act_____



Do you hold God's view about the work you do inside and outside the home?

laziness: disinclined to work or action

Proverbs 6:6-11 (NIV)

6 Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!



§ v6 defines laziness as the opposite of wi_____ and therefore foolishness.

§ "Go to" = consider and learn from

§ sluggard = 'atsel "to lean idly" - a slug that eats & digests while stationary

Genesis 1:26, 31a (NIV) Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." v31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

Q1: Did God curse work in Genesis 3:17-19, or the terms under which it would be accomplished?

Q2: What do the following verses say about how God views 'work?'

§ Colossians 3:23

§ Ephesians 4:28

§ 2 Thessalonians 3:10

§ 1 Timothy 5:18

7 It has no commander, no overseer or ruler,

§ laziness requires constant supe_____; ants have no 'boss' to tell them what to do...

Q3: If ants have no boss and we have both an earthly and heavenly one, why do we not work as hard as an ant?

8 yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.

§ A lazy person never works consis_____ but rather off and on and sloooooowly...

Q4: Does this passage mean that the Bible is promoting workaholism?

§ 2 reasons why we work:

1. To provide for our families: 1 Timothy 5:8 (NIV) If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
2. To avoid poverty: Proverbs 28:19 (NIV) He who works his land will have abundant food, but the one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty .



Proverbs advocates a **BALANCE** between poverty and riches...

Proverbs 30:7-9 (NIV)

Two things I ask of you, O LORD; do not refuse me before I die: Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the LORD?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.

9 How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep?

§ Lazy people are always ti_____ and 'needing to rest'

Q5: By what age will we have pretty much formed our work ethic? How is it formed?



"I lost my last job because of illness and fatigue." [the boss got sick and tired of his work ethic]

§ Max Webber - the Protestant Work Ethic

§ Proverbs 22:29 NKJV Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown men.

§ Ephesians 5:15-16 NKJV See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

10 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest--

11 and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man.

§ Laziness leads to sudden, certain pov_____ and like a bandit, you cannot escape it

§ Economic principle of the flow of income:

Q6: Explain the connection between work and the soul according to this verse:

Proverbs 13:4 NKJV The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.

Self Evaluation: How I Live Out God's Principles of Wisdom in My Work

Instructions: evaluate yourself for your own habits and attitudes about work and how you spend your time according to the Biblical principles we've covered.	
Scale: very unhealthy attitude 1 2 3 4 5 very healthy attitude	
Self Evaluation	Biblical Principle
	1. I see work as something I look forward to doing every day.
	2. I strive for excellence in the work that I do, expecting to please Jesus Christ with it.
	3. Regardless of what is typical for others with whom I work, I do not take excess breaks, absences, etc.
	4. Regardless of the assignment, I work urgently and diligently and avoid slacking off or taking it easy.
	5. I work diligently regardless whether or not my supervisor is watching me.
	6. I work consistently until the job is done.
	7. My work is characterized by a sense of urgency and consistency.
	8. I keep my work time and leisure time in balance – neither a workaholic or a leisureaholic.
	9. I keep my leisure activities in check (TV, shopping, etc.) and redeem the time wisely.
	10. I set reasonable economic goals and frequently evaluate my progress towards them.

A Lazy Person's MO...

Proverbs helps to identify some of the characteristics of a lazy person and how these characteristics can lead to problems for the people around them...

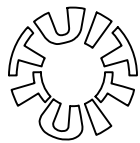


Proverbs 12:24 NKJV The hand of the diligent will rule, but the lazy man will be put to forced labor.

§ Lazy people never rise high in auth_____ while the diligent do

Proverbs 10:26 NKJV As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is the lazy man to those who send him.

§ A lazy person is always undep_____ and thus a constant irritant to those around him/her



Proverbs 12:27 KJV The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious.

§ A lazy person always has plans but never gets ar_____ to doing them

§ Lazy people always look for the ea_____ way, the short_____

Proverbs 24:30-31 NKJV I went by the field of the lazy man, and by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; and there it was, all overgrown with thorns; its surface was covered with nettles; its stone wall was broken down.

§ A lazy person has the best of int_____ but is all talk and never does anything about them

§ A lazy person never takes c_____ of what s/he has, so God will never give them more

§ A lazy person may talk about how things are falling apart, but never acts to fix them

Proverbs 10:4-5 NKJV He who has a slack hand becomes poor, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. He who gathers in summer is a wise son; he who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame.

§ A lazy person never takes action at the appropriate time, looking to extend his/her lei_____ time

§ A lazy person is usually po_____

Proverbs 21:25-26a NKJV The desire of the lazy man kills him, for his hands refuse to labor. He covets greedily all day long...

§ The lazy person often dreams of (and may even act on) get r_____ q_____ schemes

§ The lazy person may be consumed with en_____ of the 'haves,' complaining that their lot in life is not f_____

Proverbs 18:9 NKJV He who is slothful in his work is a brother to him who is a great destroyer.

§ Like a rotten apple, one lazy person can ru_____ things for the entire group



Proverbs 15:19 NKJV The way of the lazy man is like a hedge of thorns, but the way of the upright is a highway.

§ A crisis-filled life is a sym_____ of a sluggard

Proverbs 20:4 NKJV The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing.

§ A lazy person always have an exc_____ and will bl_____ others or circumstances



Proverbs 26:13 NKJV The slothful man says, There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets.

§ A lazy person may ma_____ up excuses, sometimes incredible ones

§ A lazy person is often prone to exag_____

9. Wisdom With Money

1 Timothy 6:10 KJV

For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.



Q1: Is money - or for that matter, possessions and all forms of material wealth - evil?

"The Biblical standard about money can be summed up in one statement:
Money: gain it honestly, esteem it accurately, share it generously, or it will destroy you." Dr. James MacDonald

Can money actually destroy a person's life?

Proverbs 22:7 NIV The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

Q2: In what ways does borrowing lead to bondage?

Matthew 6:24 NKJV {Jesus said} "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."



Psalm 135:15-18 (NKJV) The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. v16 They have mouths, but they do not speak; eyes they have, but they do not see; v17 They have ears, but they do not hear; nor is there any breath in their mouths. v18 Those who make them are like them ; so is everyone who trusts in them. [see also a parallel passage in Psalm 115:3-8]

Q3: Scripture tells us that we be _____ just like the idols we serve. Describe how a person becomes if they serve money and mammon?

Proverbs 15:6 NIV The house of the righteous contains great treasure, but the income of the wicked brings them trouble.

- The 'righteous' are those believers who are totally so _____ o _____ to the Biblical plan for handling money
- According to the passage, those not having God's per _____ on handling money are in t _____

Proverbs 11:4 NIV Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death

Q4: What is God's perspective on wealth?

Debt Facts:

- The average American has 4 credit cards
- Americans owe \$1,200,000,000 on their credit cards
- Every man, woman and child in America carries an average of over \$4,200 in credit card debt
- 30,000+ articles on the Internet on "how to" file for personal bankruptcy
- Money matters are currently the #1 cause for marital breakdown in America >>> DIVORCE
- #1 cause of behavioral disorders in children is DIVORCE
- #1 cause of crime in America is behavioral disorders
- Average family debt has doubled in last 7 years

Source: Walk in the Word



There are no ATMs in hell.

So what do I do?

1. To keep money from destroying you, gain it honestly

Proverbs 20:17 NIV Food gained by fraud tastes sweet to a man, but he ends up with a mouth full of gravel.

Proverbs 13:11 NKJV Wealth gained by dishonesty will be diminished, but he who gathers by labor will increase.

Q5: What does God promise about managing money gained by honest labor versus gaining it dishonestly?



Q6: Are gambling or lottery winnings the same as money gained by labor? How does the principle of managing it apply?



Proverbs 28:6 NKJV Better is the poor who walks in his integrity than one perverse in his ways, though he be rich.

§ Perverse = *iqqesh* (ik-kashe') – crooked, knotted, distorted

Q7: Applying the “Law of the Harvest,” compare the harvests of integrity and perversity.

 <p>Harvest of Integrity</p>	 <p>Harvest of Perversity</p>
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Proverbs 20:7 NKJV The righteous man walks in his integrity; his children are blessed after him.

Q8: How does a parent’s compromise of integrity affect his/her children? Even if that compromise is used to better the child’s life?



Proverbs 19:22 NKJV What is desired in a man is kindness, and a poor man is better than a liar.

Q9: Give some examples of how you have personally seen money changing people.

“For every 99 who can pass the test of poverty, there is only one who can pass the test of prosperity.”
- Dr. David Jeremiah

2. To keep money from destroying you, esteem it accurately (keep it in its proper perspective)

Proverbs 18:10-11 NKJV The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe. v11 The rich man's wealth is his strong city, and like a high wall in his own esteem.



Q10: What does Scripture tell us the proper and improper perspectives about wealth are?

Proverbs 23:4-5 NKJV Do not overwork to be rich; because of your own understanding, cease! v5 Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away like an eagle toward heaven.

- Stop it!
- God is fo_____ while riches are fleeting

USA TODAY Snapshots

In a survey conducted among the wealthiest 1% of Americans, the average price the wealthy would be willing to pay:

- \$55,000 to be President of the US
- \$83,000 to have great beauty
- \$206,000 to have a reunion with a deceased loved one
- \$259,000 to have eternal youth
- \$287,000 for great intellect
- \$289,000 for talent
- \$487,000 for true love
- \$640,000 for a place in heaven

A look at the statistics that shape the nation

5 wrong estimations people have of money: MONEY WILL

1. make me happy
2. make me content
3. will give me family appreciation
4. will make me feel better about myself
5. give me acceptance with others

BONDAGE is believing that money will do something for us that it really cannot do!

3. To keep money from destroying you, share it generously

Proverbs 22:9 NIV A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.

- The mo___ you give away the mo___ God will trust you with mo___

Proverbs 28:22 NIV A stingy man is eager to get rich and is unaware that poverty awaits him.

- The secret of getting is first g_____

Proverbs 3:9-10 NIV Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; v10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

- God does on record to say that if we honor Him first, then He will bless us



vs.



- What he wants is people with open h_____
- In God's economy, He uses peo_____ to bless other peo_____



10. Five Truths About Friendships

"Friendship:" a unique usually same-sex relationship where common interests and direction form a bond (commitment) which stretches (growth) and satisfies (joy and fun) both people (mutual).



Q1: Comparing romance and friendship, is friendship on the decline in today's society?

Proverbs reveals FIVE KEY TRUTHS about godly friendships:

1. Cho_____ your friends wisely (you are kn_____ by the com_____ that you keep!)

Proverbs 12:26 NKJV The righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray.

Q2: Provide an example from your own observations or experience of how an ungodly friendship in high school impacted someone's life later on.

Four words to help you choose the right kinds of friends

- a. **ETERNITY** - choose friends who are going where you are going
Q3: What does this mean regarding associating with unbelievers?

- b. **AFFINITY** - choose friends who are doing what you are doing.

- c. **CHEMISTRY** - choose friends who are feeling like you are feeling.

- d. **LOYALTY** - choose friends who are standing for what you are standing, who will stand with you

2. Lo___ your friends deeply (talk is cheap, and talk of love is cheaper...but actions reveal true love)

Proverbs 17:17 NKJV A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Q3: At what times is it *hardest* for you to love someone based on their attitudes, behavior or actions? Hardest for you based on what *you* are going through at the time?

The litmus test for friendship: how do they relate to you during your times of hardship?

§ a brother is born for adversity -



HOW WHISPERERS SEPARATE THE BEST OF FRIENDS

- o Bad Reports - “it’s none of my business BUT...”
- o Half Truths - a kernel of truth wrapped in subtle speculation
- o Exaggerations - a kernel of truth expanded into a full report
- o Motive Assessments - “I think that why they are doing it is because...”



Proverbs 17:9 NKJV He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates friends.

This is how you protect the friendship:

- o Stop the repetition

“Why are you _____?”

- o Cover the transgression

5. Cor_____ your friends (Not pretending that “I’m OK, you’re OK” when there are real problems)

Proverbs 27:6 NKJV Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

Q7: How do enemies ‘kiss up’ in today’s society?

Q8: In what ways are true friends willing to risk the friendship by telling the truth?



Conclusion: Friendship is maintained supernaturally and through our own hard work

Proverbs 18:24 NKJV A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

11. Parents & Children

Proverbs 1:8-9 NKJV

8 My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother;

- § my son = *ben*; builder of the family name
- § instruction = *muwcar*; discipline, chastening
- § law = *towrah*; precept, teaching from the Pentateuch

Q1: What is the connection between building the family name and obeying parents?



§ The parenting specified here is parenting from _____

9 For they will be a graceful ornament on your head, and chains about your neck.

- § The head houses the m_____, which is to be guided by thoughts of gr_____, which have their origin in godly teaching and discipline from the Word of God.
- § Chains about your neck = analogous to guid_____

Proverbs 3:11-12 NKJV

11 My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor detest His correction;

12 For whom the LORD loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights.

Q2: What is the connection between a loving father and discipline of a child? Does this same principle carry beyond the childhood years and into adulthood?

- § Discipline in l_____, not in ang_____
- § Explain the B_____ reason why (not: “because I said so)
- § Once disciplined, res_____ in love

Proverbs 13:24 NKJV

He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly.

- § Discipline qui_____ after an offense - do not gunnysack it
- § Discipline qui_____ - do not ignore it as kids being kids
- § Discipline qui_____ - don't think that it will fix itself (it is just a phase)

“Don't make me come up there. I really mean it this time.”



Proverbs 15:5, 12 NKJV

5 A fool despises his father's instruction, but he who receives correction is prudent.

12 A scoffer does not love one who corrects him, nor will he go to the wise.

Q3: According to the passages above, what is the connection between refusing correction as a child and that person's adult patterns of behavior in later life?

Proverbs 22:1-6 NKJV

1 A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and gold.

2 The rich and the poor have this in common, the LORD is the maker of them all.

3 A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished.

4 By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches and honor and life.

5 Thorns and snares are in the way of the perverse; he who guards his soul will be far from them.

6 Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.



“Train up” = chanak figuratively, to initiate or discipline;

§ *Orientalism*: a picture of training a newborn baby to suck (and thus take nourishment) by making a paste of sweet dates and applying it to the roof of the baby's mouth to start the reflex of learning to take nourishment.

“My son” (*ben*) means *builder of the family name*. According to the passage above, following are some specific areas where a godly parent needs to be training up the child in order to have a good name:

Verse	What	Practical Steps to do This:
1	The true value of a good name, and its comparison to worldly wealth	
2	Understanding God is sovereign, who made each person individually	
3	The prudence to anticipate where evil might attempt to influence you, and avoid it.	
4	The power of humility (as opposed to pride) and living a life characterized by humility	
4	Having a true respect and reverence for God and His Word	
4	Putting God first instead of riches, honor and life – living humbly and in reverence of God	
5	Guarding your soul and not allowing it to be seduced by the flesh, the devil and the world	

Proverbs 29:15 NIV The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.

Proverbs 19:18 NIV Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death.

Proverbs 22:15 NKJV Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of correction will drive it far from him.

Proverbs 23:13-14 NIV Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death.

Q4: What is today's modern equivalent of the 'rod of correction?' What do these passages say about a child's need for, and a parent's use of, corporal punishment?



Proverbs 23:22-25 NIV

22 Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

23 Buy the truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and understanding.

24 The father of a righteous man has great joy; he who has a wise son delights in him.

25 May your father and mother be glad; may she who gave you birth rejoice!

§ Honor your parents because they are w_____ though their life experience

§ Principle: *Care Reciprocity*

§ From the 'age of understanding' on, volu_____ honoring parents brings a blessing

§ Buy the truth =

§ The results of parenting are revealed _____

§ Mut_____ delight in one another as parent and child, child and parent

Proverbs 17:6 NIV Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children.

Proverbs 20:11 NIV Even a child is known by his actions, by whether his conduct is pure and right.

Proverbs 29:3 NIV A man who loves wisdom brings joy to his father, but a companion of prostitutes squanders his wealth.

Proverbs 20:20-21 NIV If a man curses his father or mother, his lamp will be snuffed out in pitch darkness. 21 An inheritance quickly gained at the beginning will not be blessed at the end.

Proverbs 28:24 NIV He who robs his father or mother and says, "It's not wrong"-- he is partner to him who destroys.

12. The Sovereignty of God Versus The Sovereignty of Man

THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED by Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, and sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood, and looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth

Then took the other as just as fair, and having perhaps the better claim
Because it was grassy and wanted wear, though as for that, the passing there
Had worn them really about the same



Q1: What are the 'significant choices' that you had to make over the past year? On what did you base your choices (how did you figure out what to do)?

Q2: What does the passage below say about a person's free will and decision-making?

Proverbs 16:1-3 NKJV

- 1 The preparations of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.
- 2 All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirits.
- 3 Commit your works to the LORD, and your thoughts will be established.

Proverbs 21:1-5 NKJV

- 1 The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.
- 2 Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the hearts.
- 3 To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.
- 4 A haughty look, a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked are sin.
- 5 The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, but those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.

Important Principles

- § God is in co_____ of all aspects of this life (even kings and mighty rivers!) (v1)
- § Man is dec_____ by his own "goodness" and cannot see even his own heart as God can (v2)
- § Even the wrong way may seem r_____ before you get started (v2)
- § God desires in us both right outcomes and right met_____ (v3)
- § Things done out of pr_____ and wickedness are SIN, regardless of good outcomes (v4)
- § God blesses dil_____ and not haste (v5)
- § God wants His people to cons_____ things first before jumping into action (v5)
- § God honors *growth by sure degrees* and not the *quick fix* (v5)

[So where is free will versus predestination?](#)

Proverbs 19:21 NKJV There are many plans in a man's heart, nevertheless the Lord's counsel - that will stand.

Proverbs 20:24 NKJV A man's steps are of the LORD; how then can a man understand his own way?

Proverbs 16:33 NIV The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.

Q3: We are told in Scripture that:

- § God is in control;
 - § Nothing that happens surprises Him;
 - § Nothing happens by accident; and
 - § He already knows what will happen...
- ...so how much free will do we really have?

Two Different Perspectives:

Two views of a parade...we see it like a fuzzy black and white photo taken at street level and don't know what is coming next.

God sees the beginning from the end and knows the whole route, how it started, how it ends, and every little detail along the entire route.

THREE THINGS THAT GOD CANNOT DO:

1. He cannot lie
2. He cannot learn
3. He cannot force us to love Him

God gave us WISDOM to help guide our free will choices in this life:

Proverbs 4:10-19 NKJV

10 Hear, my son, and receive my sayings, and the years of your life will be many.

11 I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths.

12 When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, and when you run, you will not stumble.

13 Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go; keep her, for she is your life.

14 Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of evil.

15 Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn away from it and pass on.

16 For they do not sleep unless they have done evil; and their sleep is taken away unless they make someone fall.

17 For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence.

18 But the path of the just is like the shining sun that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.

19 The way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble.

Proverbs 4:23-27 NIV

23 Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

24 Put away perversity from your mouth; keep corrupt talk far from your lips.

25 Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you.

26 Make level paths for your feet and take only ways that are firm.

27 Do not swerve to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.

Proverbs 5:21 NKJV

For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and He ponders all his paths.

Proverbs 21:30-31 NIV

30 There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the LORD.

31 The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the LORD.

Without Him we c_____ ; without us He w_____

13. Pride and Her Two Sisters, Envy & Jealousy

Pride: a feeling of superiority over others whom God has made

Envy: wanting what somebody else has while being discontent with what you have

Jealousy: resenting what God has allowed someone else to have



Proverbs 6:16-19 NKJV

16 These six things the LORD hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him:

17 A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood,

18 A heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil,

19 A false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.

§ abomination = *to' ebah*; a totally defiling act, often associated with ido_____

§ all seven are wi_____ and deli_____ acts

§ progression in list

§ pride = the ro_____ sin (even before money!)

The Rise and Fall of Satan

"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit. (Isaiah 14:12-15 NKJV)

You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings. (Ezekiel 28:15-17 NIV)

Q1: The events described occurred BEFORE man was placed into the Garden of Eden. Thus, what was the 'original sin' that got Lucifer thrown out of heaven to become Satan?

Q2: How are pride, envy and jealousy related?

Proverbs 27:4 NIV Anger is cruel and fury overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy?

FIVE REASONS GOD HATES PRIDE AND HER TWO SISTERS:

1. It causes man to trust in _____ and not in _____.

§ Proverbs 28:25-26 NKJV He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife, but he who trusts in the LORD will be prospered. He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but whoever walks wisely will be delivered.

§ 2 Corinthians 10:12 NKJV For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

2. It causes discon_____ and trouble among people, destroying rela_____.

- § Proverbs 13:10 NIV Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.
- § Proverbs 27:4 NIV Anger is cruel and fury overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy ?

3. It is the opposite of wi_____ and therefore leads to foolishness and destruction.

- § Proverbs 16:18 NIV Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.
- § Proverbs 11:2 NIV When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.
- § Proverbs 29:23 NIV A man's pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor.

4. It causes bad beh_____ and un-edifying wor_____ because it is e_____.

- § Proverbs 8:12-13 NIV "I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion. To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.
- § Proverbs 21:24 NKJV A proud and haughty man -"Scoffer" is his name; he behaves with arrogant pride.

5. It falsely promotes outw_____ health and appearances while acting as an int_____ cancer.

- § Proverbs 14:30 NKJV A sound heart is life to the body, but envy is rottenness to the bones.
- § Proverbs 21:4 NKJV A haughty look, a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked are sin.

RECOGNIZE THAT GOD WILL DEAL WITH PRIDE AND HER TWO SISTERS:

- § Proverbs 16:5 NKJV 5 The LORD detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.
- § Proverbs 15:25 NIV The LORD tears down the proud man's house but he keeps the widow's boundaries intact.
- § Proverbs 15:29 NIV The LORD is far from the wicked but he hears the prayer of the righteous.
- § Proverbs 18:12 NIV Before his downfall, a man's heart is proud, but humility comes before honor.

THREE STEPS TO FREEDOM FROM PRIDE AND HER TWO SISTERS:

1 John 1:5-10 NKJV

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

1. Call it out:
2. Pray it over:
3. Give it up:

A SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL FOR DEALING WITH PRIDE, ENVY AND JEALOUSY

This self-assessment requires you to be totally honest with yourself. You might begin by praying that God would open your eyes to areas of your life where pride, envy and jealousy have gotten hold of your heart, and that they would become very obvious to you. There may be areas that are not specifically identified below that you'll want to identify. Regardless of the hold that a particular area might have, remember that God + you = a majority in every situation...call upon Him through prayer to help you deal with it. Renounce it as sin. Allow Him to help you develop an action plan to deal with it and to give you the strength and conviction to follow through.

<p>The area(s) of pride that I see in my life at this time include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> my knowledge <input type="checkbox"/> my vocabulary/speaking <input type="checkbox"/> my physical appearance <input type="checkbox"/> my physical skills <input type="checkbox"/> my talents and skills <input type="checkbox"/> my children/grandchildren <input type="checkbox"/> my job/profession <input type="checkbox"/> my vehicle(s) <input type="checkbox"/> my travel / vacations <input type="checkbox"/> my 'being right' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> my intelligence <input type="checkbox"/> my discipline/dedication <input type="checkbox"/> my strength <input type="checkbox"/> my people skills <input type="checkbox"/> my family <input type="checkbox"/> my reputation <input type="checkbox"/> my house <input type="checkbox"/> my possessions <input type="checkbox"/> my Bible knowledge <input type="checkbox"/> my achievements <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p>Ask: Who other than God gave me these things/attributes?</p>	<p>In thinking about it, why I believe I am prideful about these things:</p>
<p>These are the things that I wish I had that I tend to envy in others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> knowledge <input type="checkbox"/> vocabulary/speaking <input type="checkbox"/> physical appearance <input type="checkbox"/> physical skills <input type="checkbox"/> talents and skills <input type="checkbox"/> children/grandchildren <input type="checkbox"/> job/profession <input type="checkbox"/> vehicle(s) <input type="checkbox"/> travel / vacations <input type="checkbox"/> 'being right' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> intelligence <input type="checkbox"/> discipline/dedication <input type="checkbox"/> strength <input type="checkbox"/> people skills <input type="checkbox"/> family <input type="checkbox"/> reputation <input type="checkbox"/> house <input type="checkbox"/> possessions <input type="checkbox"/> Bible knowledge <input type="checkbox"/> achievements <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p>Ask: Am I judging God because He chose not to give me these things/attributes?</p>	<p>In thinking about it, why I believe I envy these things in others:</p>
<p>These are the people I tend to be jealous of, and the reasons why I believe that am jealous of them:</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>People I am jealous of:</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The specific things about which I tend to be jealous of them:</i></p>
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14. Portable Wisdom for Special Occasions

The Book of Proverbs is FULL of WISDOM to address many different aspects of practical living...



A. A Question of Balance

Proverbs 25:16-17 NIV If you find honey, eat just enough--too much of it, and you will vomit. 17 Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house--too much of you, and he will hate you.

Key Point: too much of a g_____ thing is no longer g_____.

Area(s) in my life where I tend to overdo it:



B. Well, Jesus Drank Wine, So It's OK, Right? ; Applying Wisdom About Alcohol

Ephesians 5:18. KJV And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit...

Q1: Why doesn't God want us to be drunk with wine (or anything else)?

Proverbs 23:29-35 NKJV

29 Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes?

30 Those who linger long at the wine, those who go in search of mixed wine.

31 Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it swirls around smoothly;

32 At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper.

33 Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart will utter perverse things.

34 Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, or like one who lies at the top of the mast, saying:

35 "They have struck me, but I was not hurt; they have beaten me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake, that I may seek another drink?"

Key points:

29 - 6 results of alcoholism:

30: the an_____ to "Who has?" of v29

31 - a rebuke to the wine connoisseur

32 - in the end, alcohol:


33: drunkenness is linked to imm_____

34: drunkenness makes you lack good jud_____


35a: What drunkenness does to the senses:

35b: Alcohol is ad_____, so BEWARE

Almost all alcoholics deny they have a problem...their spouses and children would not agree.



Some Sobering Facts About Alcohol in the United States



- § 3 bottles of beer = net loss of memory of about 13%
- § 1 oz of alcohol:
 - § retards muscular reaction by 17%;
 - § increases by 10% the time to make a decision;
 - § increases error rate by 35% due to lack of attention; and
 - § increases error rate by 35% from lack of muscular coordination
- § Alcohol plays a major role in 36% of all suicides
- § The cost of treating alcohol abuse 1987 was \$117B
- § Alcohol related accidents = 1 every 22 minutes
- § 1 out of 10 people on the road each weekend are alcohol impaired
- § 2,200,000 car crashes per year due to alcohol impairment
- § In the past 10 years 4 times as many people died in alcohol related crashes as died in Vietnam War
- § 25% of all family problems are alcohol related (domestic violence, child abuse, rape, etc.)

Areas of my life where I should reconsider my use of alcohol:

[C. Avoiding Bad Decisions](#)

Proverbs 21:9 NKJV Better to dwell in a corner of a housetop, than in a house shared with a contentious woman.

Proverbs 21:19 NKJV Better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and angry woman.

Proverbs 14:12 NIV There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

Q2: What are the key points of these three Scriptures?



They seemed so perfect for each other a year ago...now just look at the results of a bad decision to marry!

Q3: Given the lessons we've already covered in this study, what are some practical steps we can take to avoid making bad decisions?

Proverbs 15:28-33 NKJV

28 The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.

- § Studies - *hagah* - to ponder, imagine, meditate
- § Wicked - *rasha* - morally wrong, ungodly, an actively bad person
- § Those who are wicked will deliberately try to deceive you

Q4: What is the benefit of pondering first, versus just jumping in with an answer?

29 The LORD is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous.

Q5: What is the context of God hearing a righteous person's prayers?

- § The only prayer of the sinner that God hears is the prayer of rep_____ unto salvation
- § God withdraws from these folks; they suffer the natural cons_____ of walking outside His protection

30 The light of the eyes rejoices the heart, and a good report makes the bones healthy.

31 The ear that hears the rebukes of life will abide among the wise.

- § Context: hearing the corrections/rebukes/reasonings that have "life" as their end-purpose
- § Good self-examination question: how ready to listen am I?

32 He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, but he who heeds rebuke gets understanding.

- § Instruction = *muwcar* =
- § As you go down the path of decision-making, how o_____ to God are you?
- § God's tools of rebuke:

33 The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom, and before honor is humility.

- § It all starts and ends with God, being wil_____ly and obed_____ly led by God
- § This requires a truly hu_____ and teachable spirit
- § Key lesson: God raises up those who honor Him in each decision they make

Area(s) of my life where I need to apply this lesson:

D. Health is Where the Heart Is

In God's design, there is a direct connection between one's general health and the condition of their heart...not just a physically healthy heart, but an emotionally and spiritually healthy heart, too:

Proverbs 15:13 NKJV A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.

Proverbs 15:15 NKJV All the days of the afflicted are evil, but he who is of a merry heart has a continual feast.

Proverbs 17:22 NKJV A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones.

Proverbs 18:14 NKJV The spirit of a man will sustain him in sickness, but who can bear a broken spirit?

- § Merry - *sameach* - rejoice, rejoicing, making merry, be glad, joyful (Proverbs 15:13; 17:22) - first use: *Exodus 4:14: ...when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart*
- § Merry - *towb* - cheerful, at ease, joyful, kindly, loving, bountiful (Proverbs 15:15) - first use: *Genesis 1:4: God saw the light, that it was good*

Q6: Based on the definitions of the word translated 'merry,' what kinds of personal characteristics / attitudes would you expect to see the person described as having?

- § Broken - *nake'* - broken, wounded, stricken (Proverbs 15:13; 17:22, 18:14) - first use: *Psalms 109:16:: ...he persecuted the poor and needy man*
- § Afflicted - *'aniy* - afflicted, needy, poor, wretched (Proverbs 15:15) - first use: *Exodus 22:25 If you lend money to any of My people who are poor among you...*

Q7: Based on the definitions of the word translated 'broken' and 'afflicted,' what kinds of personal characteristics /attitudes would you expect to see the person described as having?

Q8: Is being characterized by a 'merry heart' versus a 'broken spirit' a matter of choice or a matter of circumstances? (i.e.; can a person who is afflicted with misfortune in his/her life maintain a 'merry heart despite the circumstances?)





Choosing Choice Over Circumstances

Job 1:20-22 NKJV

Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD." In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.

§ We blame God whenever we lament: "W_____ is this happening to me?"

§ Instead, we should be asking: "Lord, what le_____ do you want me to learn from this?"

SIX KEYS TO DEVELOPING A MERRY AND HEALTHY HEART

Proverbs 3:5-8 NKJV

- 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;
- 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.
- 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil.
- 8 It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones.

Proverbs 4:20-23 NIV

- 20 My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words.
- 21 Do not let them out of your sight; keep them within your heart;
- 22 for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body.
- 23 Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

Key 1: Trusting in God instead of yourself

Key 2: Committing even the little things to God

Key 3: Don't believe Satan's lies about wisdom

Key 4: You are the builder of the family name

Key 5: Work the Word until it is 'first nature'

Key 6: Eyes and ears are the heart's gatekeepers

E. Life's Not Fair...But God's Justice Is

Q9: Is life fair? Why or why not?



Justice - doing what is fair and right - Webster's Dictionary

The Book of Proverbs has a lot to say about justice, injustice, and what God is doing about it...

Proverbs 21:3 NKJV To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.

§ justice - *tsedaqah* - rightness, correct (may also be rendered 'righteousness' in RSV) - right conduct in relation to others especially with regard to the rights of others

Q10: Why did God establish the sacrifice system? What does it mean that God views justice above sacrifice?

Things that God prefers more than offerings and sacrifices:

- § Proverbs 21:3: _____
- § I Samuel 15: 22: _____
- § Hosea 6:6: _____

Proverbs 21:15 NIV When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers.

- § Those who live a righteous life are those who live according to God's st_____ for living
- § Joy is brought to those who love God because His w_____ is being done by them
- § Terror is brought to evildoers because they must face the cons_____ of their acts

Seven kinds of INJUSTICE that God specifically condemns in Proverbs:

1. Bribes given to pervert justice Proverbs 17:23 NIV
A wicked man accepts a bribe in secret to pervert the course of justice.
2. Punish the innocent and favor the guilty Proverbs 24:23-25 NIV
These also are sayings of the wise: To show partiality in judging is not good: Whoever says to the guilty, "You are innocent"-- peoples will curse him and nations denounce him. But it will go well with those who convict the guilty, and rich blessing will come upon them.
3. False witness, lying Proverbs 19:5 NKJV
A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies will not escape.





4. Cheating and fraud Proverbs 20:10, 17, 23 NKJV

Diverse weights and diverse measures, they are both alike, an abomination to the LORD. Bread gained by deceit is sweet to a man, but afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel. Diverse weights are an abomination to the LORD, and dishonest scales are not good.

5. Victimizing the helpless Proverbs 22:22-23 NKJV

Do not rob the poor because he is poor, nor oppress the afflicted at the gate; for the LORD will plead their cause, and plunder the soul of those who plunder them.

6. Betraying a confidence Proverbs 25:9-10 NKJV

Debate your case with your neighbor, and do not disclose the secret to another; lest he who hears it expose your shame, and your reputation be ruined.

7. Deceit with intent to harm Proverbs 26:23-27 NKJV

Fervent lips with a wicked heart are like earthenware covered with silver dross. He who hates, disguises it with his lips, and lays up deceit within himself; when he speaks kindly, do not believe him, for there are seven abominations in his heart; Though his hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness will be revealed before the assembly. Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, and he who rolls a stone will have it roll back on him.



Proverbs 21:12 NKJV

The righteous God wisely considers the house of the wicked, overthrowing the wicked for their wickedness.

Proverbs 24:19-20 NKJV

Do not fret because of evildoers, nor be envious of the wicked; for there will be no prospect for the evil man; the lamp of the wicked will be put out.

God takes note and deals with those who cause injustice:

- § Through natural con_____
- § Through divine int_____
- § In the final jud_____



Some final thoughts about JUSTICE...

Proverbs 21:12 NIV

The Righteous One takes note of the house of the wicked and brings the wicked to ruin.

Proverbs 17:3 NIV

The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests the heart.

Proverbs 18:17 NIV

The first to present his case seems right, till another comes forward and questions him.

F. Contentious Folks

Do you know some folks who enjoy getting into 'heated discussions?' Debating every little issue? Seemingly looking for situations or circumstances over which to be contentious, but saying that they are only interested in having a 'good discussion?'



1. It takes ____ to quarrel but only ____ to avoid it

§ Proverbs 22:10 NIV Drive out the mocker, and out goes strife; quarrels and insults are ended.

§ Proverbs 26:20-21 NIV Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down. As charcoal to embers and as wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome man for kindling strife.

2. We become like those we _____

§ Proverbs 22:24-25 NKJV Make no friendship with an angry man, and with a furious man do not go, lest you learn his ways and set a snare for your soul.

3. If you can't avoid them, don't take their b_____

§ Proverbs 16:32 NKJV He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.

§ Proverbs 20:3 NIV It is to a man's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel.

4. Let it _____!

§ Proverbs 19:11 NIV

§ A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.

Q11: A get-honest-with-yourself question: What are the offenses that I need to overlook in my life:

