

“Insights Into Glorifying God In Every Detail of Life”

Proverbs 17:4-7

March 13, 2024

Titles of individual proverbs are adapted from *The Wisdom of Proverbs* by Bob Beasley

1. Don't Listen to Wicked Talk – 4

“evildoer” – this wicked person isn't satisfied with the wickedness that already fills his/her heart and life.
But he has such a craving for sin that he seeks outside stimulants of his sin (such as other people's Sinful talk)

It is our heart that needs dealing with
Psalm 51:7-10

“wicked lips” – listening to wicked lips is the opposite of love – 1 Corinthians 13:6
Proverbs already warned about listening to the wrong influences – Proverbs 1:10-16

“mischievous tongue” – we can't stop other people's mouths from speaking lies, blaspheme God, tell off color jokes and talk that entices us to think lustful thoughts, etc.
But we will stop our ears from listening to it and even at times go a step further and open our mouth and reprove it.

2. See God's Providence in the Trials of Others – 5

“mocks the poor” – that's what you might expect from a non-believer, but it's the opposite of what the Bible says we are to expect from a child of God.
The child of God is to sympathize with those in need, lift them up in prayer and provide for them in acts of kindness.

“His Maker” – mocking the poor is in effect slandering God because He made both the poor and the rich –
Proverbs 22:2
How a person responds to others is an indication of that person's true response to the Lord Himself
Proverbs 19:17; Matthew 25:31-46

1 John 3:17

“glad at calamity” – we are told in Scripture that we are to sympathize with the victims of calamity (lifting them up in prayer and providing for them in acts of kindness – Proverbs 24:17)

“not go unpunished” – illustration: The Edomites
God brought destruction to Edom as prophesied by some of the Jewish prophets (especially Obadiah and passages like Ezekiel 35:12-15)
The believer will experience the chastening of God (because we are His child) – Hebrews 12

Romans 12:15

3. Parents and Children, Bless Each Other – 6

“crown of the aged” – a crown represents a cause for joy

Psalm 127:3-5 gives great insight on God’s view of children (applies to grandchildren too)

Exodus 20:5-6

(This shouldn’t make anyone feel trapped and without hope because of his parents’ sins – Ezekiel 33:14-15)

Psalm 103:17-18

“fathers” – children find great honor in having an honorable father (and mother)

Children are commanded to honor their mother and father. It is God’s design that the children have parents who give their children reason to honor them. But even if the parents fail in that, the children are to honor them.

This verse presumes that family members are godly.

Godless families collapse at some point and godless children bring their parents shame – 10:5; 17:2; 19:26

The kind of relationships pictured in this proverb won’t happen without God’s enabling – Malachi 4:5-6

4. Speak Words of Excellence and Truth – 7

“fine speech” is a difficult word to translate. Note the NIV “arrogant lips”

The root meaning of the Hebrew word is “excess” – this has been interpreted to mean excellent or arrogant.

Taking it as “arrogant talk” doesn’t provide a contrast for what is expected of a fool. Therefore, it seems better to see it as “excellent” (words that would never come from the mouth of a fool)

“not becoming to a fool” – “fine speech” contradicts the actions and words and life style of a fool

The Hebrew word isn’t the usual word in Proverbs for a fool (it describes a person who is ignorant).

The Hebrew word is “nabal” and is a word for a person who is completely godless and beyond the reach of wisdom.

In 1 Samuel 25:25 we find a man with the name “Nabal”. He is described in 1 Samuel 25:25

“false speech” – lying

This was considered totally out of character for a prince

As a believer we should want to have speech that is befitting to a child of the holy God.

What is this speech like?

- Psalm 19:14
- Colossians 4:6
- Ephesians 4:29