

“Insights Into Glorifying God In Every Detail Of Life”

Proverbs 17:7-11

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

## 1. Speak Words of Excellence and Truth – 7

“fine speech” – difficult Hebrew word to translate

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

In this context, translating it as “excellent” or “fine” speech seems best

It is speech that is moral and in conformity to wisdom

“not becoming of a fool” – speech that is moral and in conformity to wisdom contradicts the actions and words and life style of a fool

The Hebrew word translated “fool” isn’t the usual word in Proverbs for fool.

The Hebrew word is “Nabal” and is a word for a person who is completely godless and beyond the reach of wisdom. – 1 Samuel 25:25

“false speech” – it was considered totally out of character for a prince

“prince” – contrast with the nabal/fool – he’s a person of noble character.

A person of excellent character

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

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

## 2. Beware of Men Bearing Gifts – 8

“bribe” – 1 Timothy 6:10

Bribery was prohibited:

- In the Mosaic Law – Exodus 23:8; Deuteronomy 16:19
- In the Old Testament Historical Books – 1 Samuel 12:3
- In the Old Testament Wisdom Books – Psalm 15:5; Proverbs 15:27; Ecclesiastes 7:7
- In the Old Testament Prophets – Isaiah 1:23; Amos 5:12
- In the New Testament bribery is always in the context of sin and evil – Matthew 28:12; Acts 24:26

=at first glance, this proverb may look like it’s commending bribery, but instead it is an observation of the fact that bribery works in this fallen world. It is not an endorsement.

“magic stone” – LSB “a charm”

From the perspective of the person who gives a bribe, it works like a “charm”.

It achieves what the participants in bribery are looking for

“prosper” – but God sees it and He will not let the sinner get away with sin

The Christian is different. He even invites to his table those who cannot give him anything – Luke 14:12-14.

Check your heart: bribery is a symptom of selfishness and a symptom of the love of money.

You may not be faced with the temptation of bribery but there are similar things which may easily tempt you such as gambling and lotteries.

### **3. Overlook Small Offenses – 9**

“covers an offense” – the reaction of a person who is filled with love instead of the desire for revenge. It is the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) and the mark of a believer (John 13:34-35)  
There are sins that need to be confronted – Matthew 18:15-17  
But many sins that strain relationships should be overlooked in love – Proverbs 10:12; 1 Peter 4:8

“seeks love” – this person doesn’t love because it feels good to love but seeks love when he doesn’t feel like loving.

“repeats a matter” – instead of forgiving and covering it, the person holds on to it and “repeats” it over and over in his mind and tells it over and over to others.

### **4. Be Wise in Your Response to Rebukes – 10**

“goes deeper” – penetrates, sinks in  
Illustrations: David and Peter

“hundred blows” – more than double the number that would probably kill him.  
The law allowed no more than 40 lashes (Deuteronomy 25:2-3)

“fool” – the fool is so full of pride that he refuses to learn from rebuke or correction

### **5. Don’t Be the Evil Person Who Seeks Only Rebellion – 11**

“rebellion” – he is intent on fulfilling his own desires and plans

“cruel messenger” – NIV “merciless official”

This could be speaking of government officials who bring him to justice and punish him.

But if a person escapes government officials bringing him to justice and punishing him, God will deal with him by bringing “cruel messengers” (difficulties, trials, illness) to get his attention.

If he resists them eventually he will face God’s eternal justice.