

“Insights Into Glorifying God In Every Detail of Life”

Proverbs 17:9-13

May 1, 2024

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

1. Overlook Small Offenses – 9

“Whoever” – this is a universal principle for everyone who wants to live a life pleasing to God
2 Corinthians 5:9; Colossians 1:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:1

“covers an offense” – This is the reaction of a person who wants to please God and is filled with love instead of the desire for revenge

John 13:34-35

But this does NOT mean there are no sins that need to be confronted – Matthew 18:15-17

But many sins that strain relationships should simply be overlooked in love – Proverbs 10:12; 1 Peter 4:8

2. Be Wise in Your Response to Rebukes – 10

“goes deeper” – it’s pride that prevents words of rebuke or correcting from getting into our heart and bringing about change.

“hundred blows” – a hundred blows is more than double the number that would probably kill him

The law allowed no more than 40 lashes – Deuteronomy 25:2-3

“fool” – the plagues of Egypt didn’t change the mind of Pharaoh, but David was convicted by “one word” from Nathan

The wise person (the believer) will recognize rebuke/correction as one of God’s ways of growing our sanctification and evaluate it under the scrutiny of the Word of God.

3. Don’t Be the Evil Person Who Seeks Only Rebellion – 11

“evil man” – the fool of the last line of v. 10 who refuses to learn from rebuke and correction.

He will be brought to justice and punished.

“rebellion” – he is intent on fulfilling his own desires and plans (from God’s perspective they are rebellion against God’s will and His holiness)

“cruel messenger” – this could be referring to government officials who bring him to justice and punish him.

God can and does use the “cruel messengers” of difficulties, trials, illnesses, etc. to get his attention.

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

4. Beware the Uncontrolled Malice of a Fool – 12-13

12

“cubs” – a mother bear robbed of her cubs is fierce and dangerous – but there is a worse danger

“fool” – this Hebrew word translated “fool” describes a thick-headed and obstinate individual

Proverbs 14:8 – his folly is often evidenced in his deceitfulness

But more often, the word is associate with uncontrolled anger – Proverbs 14:17, 29

“folly” – this proverb is emphasizing the out-of-control anger of a fool

Illustrations in Scripture:

- Cain – Genesis 4:5-8
- Simeon and Levi – Genesis 34:25-29
- King Saul – 1 Samuel 22:17-19
- Nebuchadnezzar – Daniel 3:13-22
- Herod – Matthew 2:16

Anger leads to the fool’s undoing – Proverbs 19:3

The child of God is to put off malice and take vengeance on no one because we recognize that vengeance belongs to the Lord – Romans 12:17-21

Jesus expanded on this – Matthew 5:43-45

13

“evil for good” – this is the ultimate result of ingratitude

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Romans 8:28-29

The worst example of returning evil for good happens every time a sinner rejects the gospel

Romans 8:32

“evil will not depart” – he will suffer the consequences

“evil” here refers to calamity

It may be directly from the hand of God or the outcome of a person’s evil actions

“house” – family

The angry fool will see consequences in his family

Illustration: David – 2 Samuel 11-13

God’s way for His children is to return good for evil and give a blessing instead – 1 Peter 3:9