

Message #90**Proverbs 22:7-10**

There is no doubt that God sovereignly controls every society, whether it is a nation, state, city, family or church. He is behind every existence in the environment and wise people do their best to work together in order to function in the manner which glorifies God.

WISE PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THE WISE WAY GOD WANTS SOCIETY TO OPERATE AND THEY CHOOSE TO OPERATE GOD'S WAY.

SOCIAL ISSUE #1 – In any society, the rich dominate the poor. **22:7**

This proverb is not too difficult to figure out—the rich lenders are on the top and the poor borrowers are on the bottom. The particular theme of the rich and poor is central to this chapter in Proverbs: verse 2—God designs both; **verse 7**—the rich dominate the poor; **verse 9**—the rich are to minister to the poor; verse 16—the rich are not to oppress the poor; verse 22—the rich are not to rob the poor. Although the poor need the rich, the rich make a fatal mistake if they take advantage of the poor. We must always remember that in eternity, those who are spiritually wealthy will rule over those who were spiritually poor. Financially speaking, Jesus Christ had nothing—no house, no steady income, sometimes He picked corn in a field for His food.

SOCIAL ISSUE #2 – In any society, evil dominance will guarantee eternal poverty. **22:8**

The word “vanity” refers to an emptiness or nothingness and the word “fury” refers to a very proud, haughty type of anger that uses violence to get what is desired.

This proverb should warn the one who is dominating others. It should also encourage those who are being oppressed.

SOCIAL ISSUE #3 – A wise society maintains proper attitudes and actions toward the poor. **22:9**

Wise societies and wise people know proper attitudes and actions towards the poor will bring abundant blessings from God. The word “generous” is a word that speaks of looking out for a person in a good, pleasant and cheerful manner. It is more than just physically and mechanically giving money or food to the needy that is at stake; it is also the attitude in which the action is taken. The word “blessed” speaks of divine blessing that leads to prosperity. We are to be generous to the poor, but in order to merit the blessing in our generosity, we must maintain proper attitudes.

SOCIAL ISSUE #4 – A wise society eliminates scoffers. **22:10**

Now notice what Solomon says will happen if we rid the society of such a person: contention will end and strife and dishonor will cease. It is an amazing thing that one person can be the cause of so much trouble, but that is exactly what Solomon says.