

Duties of Parents Toward Their Children

Parents should...

- Love their children (3:11-12; 13:24).
- Make sure their children are properly clothed and fed (31:15, 21).
- Train their children in the way they should go (22:6), the way of wisdom and righteousness (23:15-16, 24).
- Teach their children (1:8-9).
- Set a good example for their children (20:7; 31:10-31).
- Delight in their children when they do right (23:24; 29:17).
- Rebuke, correct, discipline, and chasten their children (3:11-12; 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-24; 29:15; 29:15, 17), because this will...
 - Drive the foolishness out of them (22:15).
 - Deliver their soul from hell (23:13-14).
 - Give them wisdom (29:15).
 - Give the parents rest or peace (29:17)



Parents should not...

- Withhold correction, or spare the rod (13:24; 23:13-14).
- Let children have their own way (29:15).
- Raise a scoffer, or a fool, because this kind of child will bring them sorrow (17:21).

New Testament Teaching

- Parents should bring their children up in the training and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).
- Parents should not provoke or discourage their children (Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21).
- Parents should teach their children the Scriptures from childhood (2 Timothy 3:14-15).
- Parents should be like Zacharias and Elizabeth, righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless (Luke 1:6).
- Parents should display a genuine faith before their children, as both Timothy's mother and grandmother did (2 Timothy 1:5).
- Parents should correct, chasten, and discipline their children, realizing that while it may be painful now, it will yield good fruit in the future (Hebrews 12:5-11).
- Parents should love (Titus 2:4) and cherish (1 Thessalonians 2:7) their children.
- Parents should exhort, comfort, and charge their children (1 Thessalonians 2:11).
- Parents should train their children to be in submission with all reverence (1 Timothy 3:4).

Duties of Children Toward Their Parents

Children should...

- Do what is pure and right, because they become known by what they do (20:11).
- Listen to and keep their parents' instructions (1:8; 6:20; 13:1; 23:22; 19:27).
- Learn to work and assume responsibility (15:20).
- Bless their parents (give thanks for them) (31:28; 30:11).
- Bring their parents joy by being wise and righteous (10:1; 15:20; 23:24-25; 29:3).

Children should not...

- Bring shame and reproach to their parents (19:26; 10:5)
- Forsake, scoff at, disobey, or despise their parents' instructions (1:8; 13:1; 23:22; 30:17).
- Be lazy (10:5).
- Be foolish (10:1; 17:25; 19:13).
- Curse their parents (20:20; 30:11).
- Mock their parents (30:17).
- Rob their parents (28:24).
- Mistreat their parents in any way (19:26).

**“Even a child is known
by his deeds”
(Prov. 20:11)**



New Testament Teaching

- Children should obey their parents (Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20; Romans 1:30; 2 Timothy 3:2).
- Children should be in submission to their parents with all reverence (1 Timothy 3:4).
- Children should honor their parents (Ephesians 6:2).
- Children should repay their parents (1 Timothy 5:4).
- Children should not be guilty of dissipation or insubordination (Titus 1:6).

Friends and Companions: The Right Kind and the Wrong Kind

We should not choose as companions...

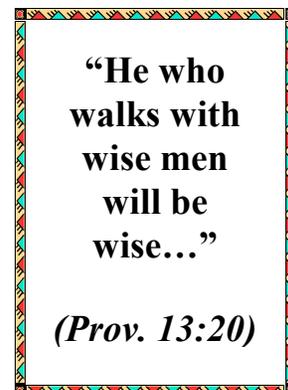
- Wicked people (12:26).
- Foolish people (13:20).
- Evil people—those who plot violence and other trouble (24:1-2).
- Talebearers, gossips—those who can't be trusted to keep a secret (20:19).
- Those who rebel against authority (24:21-22).
- Angry, hot-tempered people (22:24-25).
- Winebibbers, gluttons (23:20-21; 28:7).
- Harlots (29:3).
- Those who are insincere in their friendship (27:14; 27:6).

If we choose the wrong companions...

- We could be led astray (12:26).
- We could be destroyed (13:20).
- We could learn their ways and set a snare for our soul (22:24-25).
- We could, in the case of a gossip, have our secrets revealed (20:19).
- We could shame or disgrace our parents (28:7).
- We could waste our money on sinful living (29:3; 23:21).
- We could get caught up in the calamity and ruin that comes to them (24:21-22).

We should choose as companions...

- Wise people, because they will make us wiser (13:20).
- Those who are willing to correct or rebuke us (27:6).
- Those who will give us good counsel (27:9).
- Those who will help sharpen our character (27:17).
- Those who will love us at all times, good or bad (17:17).
- Those who will stick closer to us than a brother (18:24).



Some New Testament Teaching

- “Do not be deceived: ‘Evil company corrupts good habits’” (1 Corinthians 15:33).
- To be a good influence (Matthew 5:13-16), we should have some association with the people of the world (Matthew 11:19; 1 Corinthians 5:9-10), but we must never become “unequally yoked together” with them (2 Corinthians 6:14-18). The yoke becomes “unequal” when they begin to drag us down, when they constantly put us in tempting situations (Matthew 6:13), when we begin to participate in their worldliness (Ephesians 5:7, 11).
- The majority of our time should be spent with those who can exhort us to faithful living (Hebrews 3:12-13; 10:25); those who can encourage us (Romans 1:12); those who can warn us, comfort us, and uphold us (1 Thessalonians 5:14).
- Consider some good friends Paul had:
 - Titus, who brought comfort to Paul when he was downcast (2 Corinthians 7:6-7).
 - Some officials in Asia, who pleaded with Paul not to go into the mob in Ephesus (Acts 19:31).
 - Epaphroditus, who risked his life to supply Paul’s needs while he was in prison (Philippians 2:25, 30).
 - Aquila and Priscilla, who risked their own necks for Paul’s life (Romans 16:3-4).
 - Onesiphorus, who often refreshed Paul and was not ashamed of his chains (2 Timothy 1:16-18).
 - Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, who supplied what Paul was lacking and refreshed his spirit (1 Corinthians 16:17-18).
 - Barnabas, who convinced the apostles that Paul was a genuine disciple of the Lord (Acts 9:26-28).
 - Timothy, who as a son with his father served with Paul in the gospel (Philippians 2:19-22).
 - Philemon, described by Paul as a beloved friend (Philemon 1:1), one who gave joy and consolation to others by his love (Philemon 1:7).
- It is indeed a blessing to be called, as Abraham was, a friend of God (James 2:24).
- Jesus said, “You are My friends if you do whatever I command you” (John 15:14).
- Who better to have as a friend than Jesus, One who has promised, “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5); One who will stand with us when others have deserted us (2 Timothy 4:16-18).

“There’s not a friend like the lowly Jesus, No, not one! No, not one! None else can heal all our soul’s diseases, No, not one! No, not one! No friend like Him is so high and holy, No, not one! No, not one! And yet no friend is so meek and lowly, No, not one! No, not one! There’s not an hour that He is not near us, No, not one! No, not one! No night so dark but His love can cheer us, No, not one! No, not One! Jesus knows all about our struggles; He will guide till the day is done; There’s not a friend like the lowly Jesus, No, not one! No, not one!
(*Songs of the Church*, #578, “There’s Not A Friend”).

Women: Good and Bad

You should not be...

- An immoral, or adulterous woman (2:16-20; 5:1-23; 6:20-35; 7:1-27; 9:13-18; 23:27-28; 30:20), who is further described as...
 - Evil (6:24).
 - Loud, rebellious (7:11).
 - A seductress who flatters with enticing words (2:16; 5:3; 6:24; 7:5, 21).
 - One who dresses to entice others (7:10; 6:25).
 - One who forsakes the companion of her youth, her husband (2:17; 7:18-20).
 - One who forgets the covenant of her God (2:17).
 - One who claims she has done nothing wrong (30:20).
 - One who destroys the souls of others (6:32; 2:18-19; 5:5; 9:18).
- A lovely woman who lacks discretion (11:22).
- A contentious, angry woman (21:9, 19; 27:15-16; 19:13).
- A hateful woman (30:21-23).
- A foolish woman, who instead of “building” her house, “pulls it down” (14:1).
- The kind of woman who causes her husband shame, one who is like rottenness in his bones (12:4).

You should be...

- A wise woman, a woman who “builds her house” (14:1).
- A gracious woman (11:16).
- A prudent wife (19:14).
- An excellent wife, the kind of wife who can be regarded as the crown of her husband (12:4).
- A virtuous wife (31:10-31), one who...
 - Does her husband good all the days of her life (31:12).
 - Willingly works; does not eat the bread of idleness (31:13-15, 27).
 - Watches over the ways of her household (31:27).
 - Speaks with wisdom (31:26).
 - Speaks with kindness (31:26).
 - Fears the Lord (31:30).
 - Is clothed with strength and honor (31:25).
 - Extends her hands to the poor, reaches out her hands to the needy (31:20).

**“Her worth is far
above rubies”
(Prov. 31:10)**

Some New Testament Teaching

Women should...

- Be submissive and obedient to their husbands (Eph. 5:22-24; Titus 2:5; 1 Peter 3:5-6).
- Be respectful toward their husbands (Ephesians 5:33).
- Love their husbands and children (Titus 2:4).
- Take seriously their work in the home (1 Timothy 5:14; 1 Timothy 2:15; Titus 2:3-5).
- Be reverent, discreet, chaste, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things (1 Timothy 3:11; Titus 2:5).
- Teach, but not in the assembly, nor over a man (Titus 2:3-4; Acts 21:8-9; 18:24-26; 1 Timothy 2:11-12; 1 Corinthians 14:34-35).
- Dress modestly, in a way that is proper for women professing godliness (1 Tim. 2:9-10).
- Adorn themselves with a meek and quiet spirit (1 Peter 3:3-4).
- Diligently follow every good work (1 Timothy 5:10).

Good Women in the New Testament:

- Lois and Eunice, Timothy's grandmother and mother, who both had a genuine faith, and who taught Timothy the Scriptures from childhood (2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15).
- Dorcas, who was full of good works and charitable deeds (Acts 9:36-39).
- Lydia, who obeyed the gospel and then became a hostess for Paul and his companions (Acts 16:14-15, 40).
- Phoebe, a servant of the church in Cenchrea; a helper of many (Romans 16:1-2).
- Priscilla, who together with her husband, Aquila, explained to Apollos the way of God more accurately (Acts 18:24-26).
- Anna, a prophetess, who served God with fastings and prayers night and day, and who spoke of Jesus to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem (Luke 2:36-38).
- Elizabeth, John the Baptist's mother, who was righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless (Luke 1:6).
- Martha, who welcomed Jesus into her home on a couple of occasions and served Him (Luke 10:38-42; John 12:1-8); and who also proclaimed her faith in Jesus by saying, "I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world" (John 11:24-27).
- Mary, who sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word (Luke 10:38-42).
- Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna, and other women, all of whom provided for Jesus from their own substance (Luke 8:1-3).
- Tryphena, Tryphosa, and others who labored in the gospel or in the Lord (Romans 16:12; Philippians 4:3).
- Mary, the mother of John Mark, in whose home many were gathered together praying (Acts 12:12).

Bad Women in the New Testament:

- Herodias, the wife of Herod, who convinced her daughter to ask for the head of John the Baptist on a platter. She was upset with John because John had said to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife" (Mark 6:17-29).
- Sapphira, who together with her husband Ananias, lied to the Lord (Acts 5:1-11).
- Jezebel, who taught false doctrine (Revelation 2:20-23).

Better Things

(From Proverbs)

- A love that rebukes sin is better than a love that ignores it (27:5).
- In time of trouble, it is better to have a friend or neighbor nearby than a brother far away (27:10).
- Knowledge, wisdom, and understanding are better than gold, silver, or anything else you might possibly desire (3:13-18; 8:11, 19; 16:16).
- A good name is better than riches (22:1).
- Loving favor is better than riches (22:1).
- It is better to have a little with love, than to have a lot with hatred (15:16-17).
- It is better to have a little with righteousness, than to have a lot without righteousness (16:8).
- It is better to have a little with peace, than to have a lot with strife (17:1).
- It is better to be around poor people who are humble, than to be around rich people who are proud (16:19).
- A poor man who walks in integrity is better than a rich man who does not (28:6; 19:1).
- A poor man is better than a liar (19:22).
- He who conquers himself is better than he who conquers people (16:32).
- It is better to be almost anywhere than in a house with a contentious woman (21:9, 19; 25:24).
- It is better to be humble than to be humbled (25:6-7).

(From Psalms and Ecclesiastes)

- The law of God is better than riches (Psalms 119:72).
- A good name is better than precious ointment (Ecclesiastes 7:1).
- The day of one's death is better than the day of one's birth (Ecclesiastes 7:1).
- It is better to go the house of mourning (a funeral) than to the house of feasting (a party) (Ecclesiastes 7:4).
- It is better not to make a promise, than to make a promise and not keep it (Ecclesiastes 5:2-5).
- It is better to be rebuked by wise people than to be flattered by foolish people (Ecclesiastes 7:5).
- What you have now (materially speaking) is better than what you hope to have one day (Ecclesiastes 6:9).
- Two are better than one (Ecclesiastes 4:7-12).

- It is better to trust in God than to trust in man (Psalms 118:8-9; 146:3-7).
- The end of a thing is better than its beginning (Ecclesiastes 7:8).

(From the New Testament)

- To depart and be with Christ is far better than living on in the flesh (Philippians 1:21-23).
- We should esteem others better than ourselves (Philippians 2:3-4).
- The new covenant of Christ is a better covenant, with a better sacrifice, better promises, and a better hope (Hebrews 8:6; 7:19, 22; 9:23).
- Heaven is a better and more enduring possession than any of our earthly possessions (Hebrews 10:34; 11:16).
- It is better to suffer for doing good than for doing evil (1 Peter 3:17).
- If something dear to us is causing us to sin, it is better to give that up and go to heaven, than to hold on to it and go to hell (Matthew 18:8-9; Mark 9:43-48).
- Righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness—all of these things are better than money (1 Timothy 6:6-11).



Pride

How does God feel about pride?

- He hates it; He regards it as sin (6:16-17; 8:13; 21:4).

What will God do to the proud?

- They will not go unpunished; they will be destroyed (15:25; 16:5).

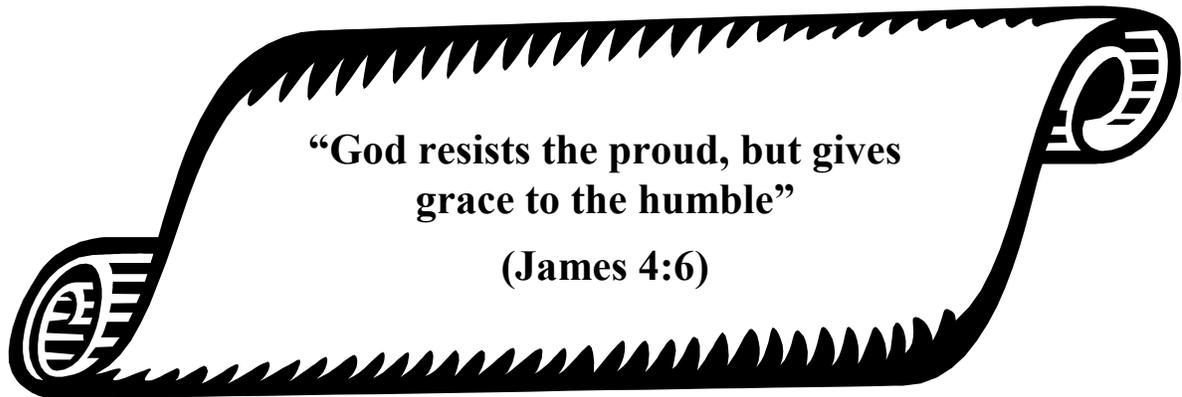
What are some consequences or fruits of pride?

- Boasting (27:2; 30:32).
- A fall (16:18).
- Shame (11:2; 29:23; 25:6-7).
- Contention, strife (13:10; 28:25).
- Envy (14:30).
- A false view of one's standing with God (30:12-13).
- Lying (25:14).
- God's grace is withheld (3:34).

Some New Testament Teaching

- Pride is listed among the evil things that come from the heart and defile a man (Mark 7:21-23).
- Pride is listed among those things of which God says, "those who practice such things are worthy of death" (Romans 1:28-32).
- The proud, the haughty, and lovers of self are listed among the kind of people from whom Timothy was to turn away (2 Timothy 3:1-5).
- Selfish ambitions are listed among the works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21).
- The pride of life is not of the Father, but of the world, and the world is passing away (1 John 2:15-17).
- He who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted (Matthew 23:12; Luke 14:11; Luke 18:14).
- God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble (James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5).
- Indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, will come to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth (Romans 2:8-9).
- Those who are puffed up with pride will fall into the same condemnation as the devil (1 Timothy 3:6).

- Rather than seeking honor or praise from others, we should seek the honor or praise that comes from God (John 8:50, 54; Romans 2:7; 1 Peter 1:6-7; John 12:42-43; 1 Thessalonians 2:6; Romans 2:29).
- Instead of esteeming ourselves too highly, we should esteem others better than ourselves (Philippians 2:3; Romans 12:10).
- Those who seek the honor that comes from God will be highly esteemed among some men (Luke 2:52).
- We should never boast in our salvation, because without the grace of God, we would be hopelessly lost (Ephesians 2:8-10; 1 Corinthians 15:10).
- God forbid that we should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ (Galatians 6:14).
- Infirmities are not all bad, because they can keep us from being exalted above measure; they can make us depend even more on the power of God (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).
- Wherever you find pride, you will find many other evil things (James 3:14-16).
- Pride leads to envy (Galatians 5:26).
- Pride can cause someone to teach false doctrine (1 Timothy 6:3-5).
- Those who are rich should not become haughty, because everything they have comes from God (1 Timothy 6:17-19).



Giving Heed To Correction, Reproof, Rebuke

- One who rebukes will gain more favor than one who flatters (28:23; 9:8).
- Those who truly love us will correct us, so we should never despise their correction (3:11-12; 27:5).
- The following is said about the person who hates, or refuses correction.
 - He is stupid (12:1).
 - He is a scoffer (15:12; 13:1).
 - He despises his own soul (15:32).
 - He goes astray (10:17).
 - Poverty and shame will come to him (13:18).
 - He will die (15:10).
 - He will suddenly be destroyed (29:1).
- The following is said about the one who hears or receives correction.
 - He will love the one who rebukes him (9:8).
 - He is prudent (15:5).
 - He will remain in the way of life (10:17).
 - He will be honored (13:18).
 - He will abide among the wise (15:31).
 - He will get understanding (15:32).
 - He will get wisdom (29:15).

**“He who hates
correction is stupid.”
(Proverbs 12:1)**

Some Teaching From Other Old Testament Passages

- Our attitude toward rebuke should be the one expressed by the Psalmist: “Let the righteous strike me; It shall be a kindness. And let him rebuke me; It shall be as excellent oil; Let me head not refuse it” (Psalms 141:5).
- “It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise than to hear the song of fools” (Ecclesiastes 7:5).

Some New Testament Teaching

- “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16).
- What should I do if I am rebuked, or corrected?
 - Instead of getting mad, I should receive it with meekness (James 1:19-21).
 - I should repent (Luke 17:3-4; Revelation 3:19).

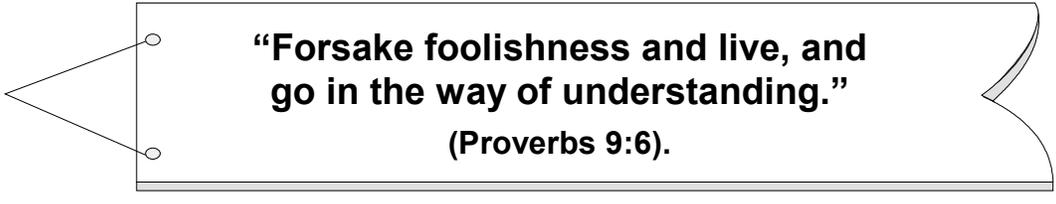
The Foolish Man

A fool...

- Hates or despises knowledge, wisdom, and instruction. He has no delight in it; no heart for it (1:7, 22; 15:5; 17:16; 18:2; 23:9).
- Will feed instead on foolishness (15:14).
- Will die for lack of wisdom (10:21).
- Mocks at sin; he treats it as a sport (14:9, 16; 10:23; 13:19).
- Is right, not in God's eyes, but in his own eyes (12:15; 30:32).
- Is more dangerous than a bear robbed of her cubs (17:12).
- Holds nothing back; he tells all that is on his mind (29:11; 14:33; 10:14; 12:23; 15:27; 18:2).
- Would be better off if he kept his mouth shut (17:28).
- Squanders his money; he can't handle prosperity (21:20; 19:10).
- Spreads slander (10:18).
- Repeats his foolishness; he doesn't learn from his mistakes (26:11; 27:22).
- Brings grief to his parents (17:21, 25; 19:13).
- Is easy to spot; his speech and his actions make him known (13:16; 12:23; 15:2).
- Likes to pick a fight (18:6-7; 20:3).
- Becomes angry easily, and his anger is hard for those around him to bear (14:17; 27:3).
- Will leave a legacy of shame rather than honor (3:35; 26:1).
- Should forsake foolishness and choose the way of understanding (9:6; 8:5).

Some New Testament Teaching

- "...walk circumspectly, not as **fools** but as wise...do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:15, 17).
- **Foolishness** begins in the heart; if the heart is not right, **foolishness** will be the result (Mark 7:21-23).
- It is **foolish** to hear the sayings of Jesus and not do them (Matthew 7:26-27).
- It is **foolish** to spend more time laying up treasures on earth than laying up treasures in heaven (Luke 12:15-21).
- It is **foolish** to be unprepared to meet the Lord in judgment (Matthew 25:1-13).
- It is **foolish** to leave the truth for false doctrine (Galatians 3:1, 3; 1:6-9).
- It is **foolish** to leave God out of our lives (Romans 1:20-22, 28).

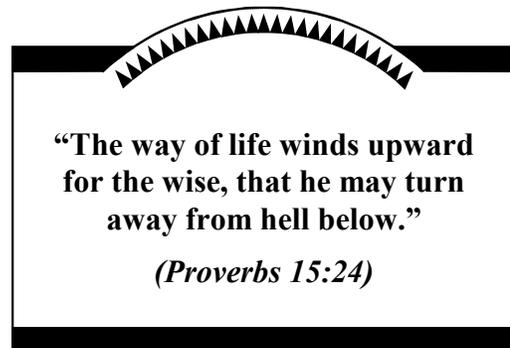


“Forsake foolishness and live, and go in the way of understanding.”
(Proverbs 9:6).

The Wise Man

The Wise Man...

- Seeks more knowledge and wisdom, and in so doing becomes stronger spiritually (1:5; 9:9; 10:8, 14; 18:15; 24:5-6).
- Is made wiser by choosing wise companions (13:20).
- Restrains his lips, or spares his words; he doesn't say everything that's on his mind (17:27; 29:11; 14:33; 10:19).
- Will use his tongue...
 - To teach (15:7).
 - To encourage, or help others (12:18).
 - To rebuke (25:12).
 - To win souls (11:30).
- Loves those who rebuke him (9:8).
- Fears and departs from evil (14:16).
- Follows the pathway to heaven (15:24).
- Makes his parents glad (10:1; 15:20; 23:15-16; 23:24).
- Does not squander his money (21:20).
- Shows no partiality in judgment (24:23-25).
- Instead of stirring up wrath, appeases it (16:24; 29:8).
- Is like the ant in that he prepares for the future (30:24-25).
- Is like the rock badger in that he seeks a safe place of refuge (30:24, 26).
- Is like the locust in that he works together with others (30:24, 27).
- Is like the spider in that he makes his way to the King's palace (30:24, 28).
- Will inherit glory (3:35).



Some New Testament Teaching

The Wise Man...

- Desires to increase in wisdom, to be filled with wisdom (Luke 2:52; Colossians 1:9-10).
- Will prepare himself for the coming of the Lord (Matthew 25:1-13).
- Will be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil (Romans 16:19).
- Will hear the sayings of Jesus and do them (Matthew 7:24-25).
- Understands what the will of the Lord is, and walks accordingly (Ephesians 5:15-17).
- Shows himself to be wise by his conduct (James 3:13).

Laziness vs. Diligence and Hard Work

Diligence, according to Proverbs 12:27, is a “precious possession.” To appreciate more fully the value of diligence or hard work, look at the contrast between the lazy man and the diligent man.

Lazy Man	Diligent Man
Sleeps when he should be working (6:9-11; 20:13)	Opens his eyes and goes to work (20:13)
Talks when he should be working (14:23)	Does not engage in idle chatter (14:23)
Goofs off when he should be working (12:11; 28:19).	Is serious about his work (12:11; 28:19)
Becomes poor (10:4)	Has plenty (28:19)
Irritates other people (10:26)	Gains the respect of other people (22:29)
Makes his life more difficult (15:19)	Makes his life easier (15:19)
Makes excuses to get out of work (26:13-16)	Makes no excuses (26:13-16)
Gets the worst jobs (12:24)	Gets the best jobs (12:24)
Cannot enjoy the fruits of his labor (Eccl. 2:24)	Can enjoy the fruits of his labor (Eccl. 2:24)

Some New Testament Teaching

Diligence is valuable, not only in secular work, but also in spiritual work (Romans 12:9-11; Hebrews 6:10-12; 11:6). Let’s look at some areas in which we should show diligence.

We should be diligent...

- In using whatever we have for the Lord—abilities, money, etc. (Matthew 25:14-30; Romans 12:8).
- In doing good works (1 Timothy 5:10).
- In learning the Scriptures and handling them properly (2 Timothy 2:15).
- In growing spiritually; in adding certain virtues to our character and growing in them (2 Peter 1:5-11).
- In avoiding sin (2 Peter 3:11-14; Mark 9:43-48).
- In preparing to enter the eternal rest (Hebrews 3:16-4:13).

Fear of the Lord

How does one develop a fear of the Lord?

- By being zealous for it (23:17-18).
- By crying out for knowledge, wisdom, and understanding (2:1-5).

One who fears the Lord...

- Shall be praised (31:30).
- Has something more valuable than material possessions (15:16).
- Will gain more and more knowledge and wisdom (1:7; 9:10; 15:33).
- Will fear the commandments of the Lord (13:13).
- Will walk uprightly (14:2).
- Will depart from sin (3:7; 8:13; 14:27; 16:6).
- Will prolong his days (10:27).
- Will have strong confidence (14:26).
- Will have riches and honor and life (22:4).

**“By the fear of the Lord one
departs from evil.”
(Proverbs 16:6)**

Some Passages from Psalms

- (Psalms 33:8) “Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.”
- (Psalms 89:6-7) “For who in the heavens can be compared to the LORD? Who among the sons of the mighty can be likened to the LORD? <7> God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, And to be held in reverence by all those around Him.”
- (Psalms 25:12) “Who is the man that fears the LORD? Him shall He teach in the way He chooses.”

Some New Testament Passages

- (Luke 12:5) “But I will show you whom you should *fear*: *Fear* Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, *fear* Him!”
- (2 Corinthians 7:1) “Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the *fear* of God.”
- (Philippians 2:12-13) “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with *fear* and trembling; <13> for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”
- (Hebrews 12:28) “Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly *fear*.”
- (1 Peter 1:17-19) “And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in *fear*; <18> knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, <19> but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

Strife, Contention, Discord

How does God feel about it?

- He hates it (Proverbs 6:16-19).
- One who causes strife is regarded by God as a fool (18:6; 20:3), as a perverse man (16:28).

What are some of the causes of strife, contention, and discord?

- Pride (13:10; 28:25).
- Hatred (10:12).
- Anger or wrath (15:18; 29:22; 30:33).
- Alcohol (23:29-30).
- Talebearing, whispering (16:28; 26:20-21).
- Scoffing (22:10).

What are some of the fruits of strife, contention, and discord?

- Marital problems (19:13).
- Family problems in general (17:1).
- Barriers between brethren (18:18-19).
- Blows struck (18:6).

Conclusion:

- (Proverbs 17:14) “The beginning of strife is like releasing water; Therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts.”
 - (Proverbs 20:3) “It is honorable for a man to stop striving, Since any fool can start a quarrel.”
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Some New Testament Teaching

How does God feel about it?

- He regards it as sin (Romans 1:29; 2 Corinthians 12:20-21); as a work of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21).
- Those who cause or participate in strife and division are regarded as carnal (1 Corinthians 3:3).
- (Titus 3:10-11) “Reject a *divisive man* after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.”

What are some causes?

- Pride (1 Timothy 6:4)
- False teaching (Romans 16:17; Jude 1:4, 16-19).
- Foolish and unprofitable questions and disputes (1 Timothy 1:4; 6:4; 2 Timothy 2:14, 23; Titus 3:9).
- Exalting certain men too highly (1 Corinthians 1:10-12).

Conclusion:

- (Romans 13:13-14) “Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, *not in strife and envy*. <14> But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”
- (2 Timothy 2:24) “And a servant of the Lord *must not quarrel* but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient...”



The Deceitfulness of Riches



Reasons we should not be greedy in pursuit of wealth:

- It takes away the life of its owners (1:19).
- It brings trouble to the home (15:27).
- Riches do not last (23:4-5).
- Riches do not profit us in the day of judgment (11:4).
- We can be led to trust in our wealth rather than God (18:11; 10:15; 30:8-9; 11:28).
- We can be tempted to use sinful means to gain wealth (13:11; 20:17; 22:16; 28:8).
- We can become forgetful of the needs of others as we hoard up for ourselves (11:24-25; 14:31; 21:25-26).

Some things we should pursue instead:

- A good name (22:1).
- Loving favor (22:1).
- Enduring riches, which come with knowledge, wisdom, and understanding (3:13-18; 8:11-19; 24:3-4; 13:7).
- A good home, a home where love and a fear of the Lord is present (24:3-4; 15:16-17).
- The blessing of the Lord (10:22).
- A generous heart, a willingness to share what we have—both with the Lord and with others (3:9-10; 11:24-25; 19:17; 21:26; 22:9; 31:20).
- Righteousness (16:8).
- Integrity (19:1; 28:6).

Some New Testament Teaching

- The “deceitfulness of riches” can choke the word and cause it to become unfruitful (Matthew 13:21-22; Mark 4:18-19).
- The rich young ruler was not willing to share his “great possessions” (Matthew 19:16-22; Mark 10:17-22; Luke 18:18-23).
- After His encounter with the rich young ruler, Jesus said to His disciples, “How hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God” (Mark 10:24-25).
- The rich fool laid up treasure for himself, but was not “rich toward God” (Lk. 12:13-21).

- Jesus concluded the Parable of the Unjust Steward with these words: “Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon (money), who will commit to your trust the true riches?” (Luke 16:1-13).
- The rich man, in the story of the rich man and Lazarus, “fared sumptuously every day,” but when he died, he was “in torments in Hades” (Luke 16:19-31).
- Covetousness, or greed, played a role in the lie told by Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11).
- “Not greedy for money” is listed among the qualifications for both elders and deacons (1 Timothy 3:3, 8; Titus 1:7).
- (1 Timothy 6:9-11) “But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. <10> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. <11> But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.”
- (1 Timothy 6:17-19) “Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. <18> Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, <19> storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”
- The rich man should remember that “as a flower of the field he will pass away,” that he “will fade away in his pursuits” (James 1:10-11).
- In James 5 the rich are condemned because “they had heaped up treasure in the last days,” because they had “kept back by fraud...the wages of the laborers” (James 5:1-6).
- According to 2 Corinthians 8:9, Jesus “became poor, that you through his poverty might become rich.” This passage, of course, speaks of becoming spiritually rich.
- The riches we should pursue come from God’s grace (Ephesians 2:7), from the knowledge and understanding we gain from God’s word (Colossians 2:2-3).
- The “poor of this world” can still be “rich in faith” (James 2:5).
- The brethren in Smyrna were poor, materially speaking, but in the Lord’s eyes, they were rich (Revelation 2:9).
- The brethren in Laodicea were rich, materially speaking, but in the Lord’s eyes, they were poor (Revelation 3:17-19).
- Moses “esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt, for he looked to the reward” (Hebrews 11:26).