

Proverbs 17 - Words of Wisdom

III. Solomon's Proverbs (Prov 10:1—22:16)

(2) Proverbs promoting Godly living (Prov 16:1—22:16)

(C) Wise and wicked conduct (Prov 16:16—22:16)

(h) Strife and peace in various areas of life (17:1-20)

(i) Foolishness and prudence (17:21-28)

Proverbs 17

(h) Strife and peace in various areas of life (17:1-20)

1 Better is a dry morsel and quietness with it Than a house full of feasting with strife.

1 Better is a dry morsel and quietness with it Than a house full of feasting with strife.

1 Dry crumbs in peace are better than a full meal with strife.

1 Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices with strife.

[Prov 15:17]

2 A servant who acts wisely will rule over a son who acts shamefully, And will share in the inheritance among brothers.

2 A servant who acts wisely will rule over a son who acts shamefully, And will share in the inheritance among brothers.

2 A prudent servant will rule in place of a disgraceful son and will share in the inheritance among brothers.

2 A wise servant shall have rule over a son that causes shame, and shall have part of the inheritance among the brethren.

3 The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, But the LORD tests hearts.

3 The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, But the LORD tests hearts.

3 The crucible is for silver and the furnace for gold— but the LORD assays hearts.

3 The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD tries the hearts.

4 An evildoer listens to wicked lips; A liar pays attention to a destructive tongue.

4 An evildoer listens to wicked lips; A liar pays attention to a destructive tongue.

4 Whoever practices evil pays attention to wicked speech, and the liar listens to malicious talk.

4 A wicked doer gives heed to false lips; and a liar gives ear to a naughty tongue.

5 One who mocks the poor taunts his Maker; One who rejoices at disaster will not go unpunished.

5 He who mocks the poor taunts his Maker; He who rejoices at calamity will not go unpunished.

5 Whoever mocks the poor shows contempt for their maker, and whoever is happy about disaster will not go unpunished.

5 Whoso mocks the poor reproaches his Maker: and he that is glad at calamities shall not be unpunished.

6 Grandchildren are the crown of the old, And the glory of sons is their fathers.

6 Grandchildren are the crown of old men, And the glory of sons is their fathers.

6 Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, and the pride of children is their parents.

6 Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers

7 Excellent speech is not fitting for a fool, Much less are lying lips to a prince.

7 Excellent speech is not fitting for a fool, Much less are lying lips to a prince.

7 Appropriate speech is inconsistent with the fool; how much more are deceitful statements with a prince!

7 Excellent speech becomes not a fool: much less do lying lips a prince.

8 A bribe is a charm in the sight of its owner; Wherever he turns, he prospers.

8 A bribe is a charm in the sight of its owner; Wherever he turns, he prospers.

8 A bribe works wonders in the eyes of its giver; wherever he turns he prospers.

8 A gift is as a precious stone in the eyes of him that has it: wherever it turns, it prospers.

9 One who conceals an offense seeks love, But one who repeats a matter separates close friends.

9 He who conceals a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends.

9 Anyone who overlooks an offense promotes love, but someone who gossips separates close friends.

9 He that covers a transgression seeks love; but he that repeats a matter separates very friends.

10 A rebuke goes deeper into one who has understanding Than a hundred blows into a fool.

10 A rebuke goes deeper into one who has understanding Than a hundred blows into a fool.

10 A rebuke is more effective with a man of understanding than a hundred lashes to a fool.

10 A reproof enters more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool.

11 A rebellious person seeks only evil, So a cruel messenger will be sent against him.

11 A rebellious man seeks only evil, So a cruel messenger will be sent against him.

11 A rebellious person seeks evil; a cruel emissary will be sent to oppose him.

11 An evil man seeks only rebellion: therefore a cruel messenger shall be sent against him.

12 Let a person meet a bear robbed of her cubs, Rather than a fool in his foolishness.

12 Let a man meet a bear robbed of her cubs, Rather than a fool in his folly.

12 It's better to meet a mother bear who has lost her cubs than a fool in his stupidity.

12 Let a bear robbed of her whelps meet a man, rather than a fool in his folly.

13 One who returns evil for good, Evil will not depart from his house.

13 He who returns evil for good, Evil will not depart from his house.

13 The person who repays good with evil will never see evil leave his home.

13 Whoso rewards evil for good, evil shall not depart from his house.

14 The beginning of strife is *like* letting out water, So abandon the quarrel before it breaks out.

14 The beginning of strife is *like* letting out water, So abandon the quarrel before it breaks out.

14 Starting a quarrel is like spilling water— so drop the dispute before it escalates.

14 The beginning of strife is as when one lets out water: therefore leave off contention, before it be meddled with.

15 One who justifies the wicked and one who condemns the righteous, Both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD.

15 He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous, Both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD.

15 Exonerating the wicked and condemning the righteous are both detestable to the LORD.

15 He that justifies the wicked, and he that condemns the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD.

16 Why is there money in the hand of a fool to buy wisdom, When he has no sense?

16 Why is there a price in the hand of a fool to buy wisdom, When he has no sense?
16 What is this? A fool has enough money to buy wisdom, but is senseless?
16 Wherefore is there a price in the hand of a fool to get wisdom, seeing he has no heart to it?

17 A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.
17 A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.
17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is there for times of trouble.
17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

18 A person lacking in sense shakes hands And becomes guarantor in the presence of his neighbor.
18 A man lacking in sense pledges And becomes guarantor in the presence of his neighbor.
18 A man who lacks sense cosigns a loan, becoming a guarantor for his neighbor.
18 A man void of understanding strikes hands, and becomes surety in the presence of his friend.

19 One who loves wrongdoing loves strife; One who makes his doorway high seeks destruction.
19 He who loves transgression loves strife; He who raises his door seeks destruction.
19 The person who loves transgression loves strife; the person who builds a high gate invites destruction.
19 He loves transgression that loves strife: and he that exalts his gate seeks destruction.

20 One who has a crooked mind finds nothing good, And one who is corrupted in his language falls into evil.
20 He who has a crooked mind finds no good, And he who is perverted in his language falls into evil.
20 The person whose mind is perverse does not find good, and anyone with perverted speech falls into trouble.
20 He that has a froward heart finds no good: and he that has a perverse tongue falls into mischief.

(i) Foolishness and prudence (17:21-28)

21 He who fathers a fool *does* so to his sorrow, And the father of a fool has no joy.
21 He who sires a fool *does* so to his sorrow, And the father of a fool has no joy.
21 The man who fathers a fool does so to his sorrow— the father of a fool has no joy.

21 He that begets a fool does it to his sorrow: and the father of a fool has no joy.

22 A joyful heart is good medicine, But a broken spirit dries up the bones.

22 A joyful heart is good medicine, But a broken spirit dries up the bones.

22 A joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit drains one's strength.

22 A merry heart does good like a medicine: but a broken spirit dries the bones.

23 A wicked person accepts a bribe from an inside pocket To pervert the ways of justice.

23 A wicked man receives a bribe from the bosom To pervert the ways of justice.

23 The wicked man takes a bribe in secret in order to pervert the course of justice.

23 A wicked man takes a gift out of the bosom to pervert the ways of judgment.

24 Wisdom is in the presence of one who has understanding, But the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth.

24 Wisdom is in the presence of the one who has understanding, But the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth.

24 A person with understanding has wisdom as his objective, but a fool looks only to earthly goals.

24 Wisdom is before him that has understanding; but the eyes of a fool are in the ends of the earth.

25 A foolish son is a grief to his father, And bitterness to her who gave birth to him.

25 A foolish son is a grief to his father And bitterness to her who bore him.

25 A foolish son brings grief to his father and bitterness to his mother.

25 A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him.

26 It is also not good to fine the righteous, *Nor* to strike the noble for *their* uprightness.

26 It is also not good to fine the righteous, *Nor* to strike the noble for *their* uprightness.

26 Furthermore, it isn't good to fine the righteous, or to beat an official because of his uprightness.

26 Also to punish the just is not good, nor to strike princes for equity.

27 One who withholds his words has knowledge, And one who has a cool spirit is a person of understanding.

27 He who restrains his words has knowledge, And he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.

27 Whoever controls what he says is knowledgeable; anyone who has a calm spirit is a man of understanding.

27 He that has knowledge spares his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.

28 Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is considered wise; When he closes his lips, he is *considered* prudent.

28 Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is considered wise; When he closes his lips, he is *considered* prudent.

28 Even a fool is thought to be wise when he remains silent; he is thought to be prudent when he keeps his mouth shut.

28 Even a fool, when he holds his peace, is counted wise: and he that shuts his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.