

45. PROVERBS 14 – CONTRASTS BETWEEN THE WISE AND FOOLISH. CONT.

How they conduct themselves as citizens. Proverbs 14:28–35

1. Their Citizenship

²⁸ In the multitude of people *is* the king's honour: But in the want of people *is* the destruction of the prince.

- This is a 'royal' proverb - dealing with governmental authority and issues.
- A large kingdom is great, but is the kingdom well?

Titles without _____ are worthless.

Romans 13:1–2 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. ² Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

Leadership: You may have a position of _____, but are people _____ you?
Leaders are replaceable.

1 Samuel 16:1 And the Lord said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Beth-lehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

Solomon was wise in his request of God's blessing to lead Israel. **1 Kings 3.**

- Subjects must _____ the king.

1 Peter 2:17 Honour all *men*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

Jude 8–10 Likewise also these *filthy* dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities. ⁹ Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. ¹⁰ But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.

Key: A great responsibility before our leaders - _____.

1 Timothy 2:1–3 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men; ² For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. ³ For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

2. Their Temper

²⁹ *He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding:* But *he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.*

- Why? He doesn't know to wait to see the _____ of the matter.

James 1:19–20 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: ²⁰ For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

Ecclesiastes 7:9 Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.

Proverbs 15:18 A wrathful man stirreth up strife: But *he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.*

- Don't _____

Ex: Job. After *God addresses his words.*

Job 42:1–6 Then Job answered the LORD, and said, ² I know that thou canst do every *thing*, and *that* no thought can be withholden from thee. ³ Who *is* he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. ⁴ Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. ⁵ I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. ⁶ Wherefore I abhor *myself*, and repent in dust and ashes.

- Folly vs Function: “hasty of spirit” Take your time. Understand do the thing right the first time. People in a hurry make mistakes.

3. Their Health

³⁰ A sound heart *is* the life of the flesh: But envy the rottenness of the bones.

Proverbs 17:22 A merry heart doeth good *like* a medicine: But a broken spirit drieth the bones.

Proverbs 15:30 The light of the eyes rejoiceth the heart: *And* a good report maketh the bones fat.

- Key to heart health? Keep your eyes on Christ.

Proverbs 4:20–22 My son, attend to my words; Incline thine ear unto my sayings. ²¹ Let them not depart from thine eyes; Keep them in the midst of thine heart. ²² For they *are* life unto those that find them, And health to all their flesh.

Proverbs 3:5–8 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; And lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶ In all thy ways acknowledge him, And he shall direct thy paths. ⁷ Be not wise in thine own eyes: Fear the Lord, and depart from evil. ⁸ It shall be health to thy navel, And marrow to thy bones.

- You can pass that heart health _____

Proverbs 16:24 Pleasant words *are as* an honeycomb, Sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

- Envy destroys.

Proverbs 27:4 Wrath *is* cruel, and anger *is* outrageous; but who *is* able to stand before envy?

Consider Joseph’s brethren.

Acts 7:9 And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him,

And Jesus’ persecution.

Matthew 27:18 For he knew that for envy they had delivered him.

And the apostles’ persecution.

Acts 17:5 But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.

Why?

James 3:16 For where envying and strife *is*, there *is* confusion and every evil work.

1 Corinthians 3:3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas *there is* among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

- *Solution?*

1 Corinthians 3:4–9 For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I *am* of Apollos; are ye not carnal? ⁵ Who then is Paul, and who *is* Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? ⁶ I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. ⁷ So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. ⁸ Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. ⁹ For we are labourers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, *ye are* God’s building.

- **Just be a part of what God is doing! God is doing the work, let God get the glory.**

1 Corinthians 3:21–23 Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; ²² Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; ²³ And ye are Christ’s; and Christ *is* God’s.

4. Their View of God in Their Treatment of the Poor

³¹ He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: But he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor.

Review:

Proverbs 14:20–21 The poor is hated even of his own neighbour: But the rich *hath* many friends. ²¹ He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth: But he that hath mercy on the poor, happy *is* he.

Job 31:15 Did not he that made me in the womb make him? And did not one fashion us in the womb?

Consider God's perspective on the poor. Do not be prejudiced against the poor.

Proverbs 17:5 Whoso mocketh the poor reproacheth his Maker: *And* he that is glad at calamities shall not be unpunished.

Proverbs 19:17 He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; *And* that which he hath given will he pay him again.

Proverbs 22:2 The rich and poor meet together: The Lord *is* the maker of them all.

Matthew 25:40 *And* the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me.

1 John 3:17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels *of compassion* from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

- Consider God's _____ for the poor. **Duet 15:1-11; Matt 25:31-45 (trib context) John 3:17-21**
- God tells us that we'll always have the poor with us. (Matt 26:11; Mark 14:7; John 12:8)
Man's attempts to manufacture and enforce equity of outcome will always fail.

5. Their End

³² The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: But the righteous hath hope in his death.

- The Wicked cannot stand. (Belshazzar; Pharoah; Nabel; Hamon; etc.)
- The righteous are secure to the end! (Stephen; Paul; the bible believer!)
What a confidence the believer has!

1 Corinthians 15:26 The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed *is* death.

1 Corinthians 15:55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

2 Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, *I say*, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

Christ is our blessed hope in the face of death!

Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

6. Their Heart

³³ Wisdom resteth in the heart of him that hath understanding: But *that which is* in the midst of fools is made known.

- How do you get wisdom into your heart?

Proverbs 2:10 When wisdom entereth into thine heart, *And* knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;

Proverbs 4:4 He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.

Proverbs 22:17 Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply thine heart unto my knowledge.

Proverbs 23:12 Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge.

Psalms 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

John 1:1-4 Jesus, THE WORD of God! *Must...*

Ephesians 3:17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

- Remember: What is _____ is what will _____ of you!

Ecclesiastes 5:3 For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice *is known* by multitude of words.

Matthew 12:34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

This is how fools are known!

Proverbs 12:23 A prudent man concealeth knowledge: But the heart of fools proclaimeth foolishness.

Proverbs 13:16 Every prudent man dealeth with knowledge: But a fool layeth open his folly.

Proverbs 15:2 The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: But the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.

Proverbs 15:14 The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: But the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness.

Proverbs 29:11 A fool uttereth all his mind: But a wise *man* keepeth it in till afterwards.

Want to know if a man is a fool? Get him _____. You'll know.

7. Their Country

³⁴ Righteousness exalteth a nation: But sin *is* a reproach to any people.

- How does a nation thrive? By how they _____. Righteously vs sinfully.

Deuteronomy 4:6–8 Keep therefore and do *them*; for this *is* your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation *is* a wise and understanding people. ⁷ For what nation *is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the Lord our God is in all things that we call upon him for?* ⁸ And what nation *is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?* **See also chapter 28**

Can God bless a sinful nation?

Psalms 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear *me*:

- *Note that the land itself is affected!*

Leviticus 18:24–25 Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you: ²⁵ And the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants. **Compare Romans 8:22 'creation groaneth'**

- Righteous _____ is critical.

Proverbs 11:11 By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted: But it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.

Proverbs 16:12 *It is* an abomination to kings to commit wickedness: For the throne is established by righteousness.

8. Their Performance Review

³⁵ The king's favour *is* toward a wise servant: But his wrath *is against* him that causeth shame.

- Another royal proverb.
- Competence vs. incompetence in service.

Proverbs 14:35 The king's favour *is* toward a wise servant: But his wrath *is against* him that causeth shame.

Proverbs 22:29 Seest thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings; He shall not stand before mean *men*.

The only good ruler is one that is willing to first _____ and _____.

Example: Cain.

Genesis 4:6–7 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? ⁷ If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee *shall be* his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

- Notice the king's judgment is in his wrath!

Proverbs 16:14 The wrath of a king *is as* messengers of death: But a wise man will pacify it.

- **Your service will be judged by _____ at the Judgment Seat of Christ.**
1 Cor 3; 2 Cor 5; Rom 14; etc..