

The Applications of Wisdom
Proverbs 3:27-35
August 2, 2015

Introduction

Up to this point in Solomon's teaching to his son in **Chapters 1-3:26**, he has been very abstract—explaining about wisdom and how much we should seek it. Now, Solomon is now giving the practical application of wisdom. He gives specific examples of how to live in wisdom, the skill of living in fear of YHWH.

What Solomon is doing is that he is showing (and teaching) his son how to live wisely by fulfilling the 2nd greatest commandment—loving your neighbor.

Leviticus 19:18 *Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.*

Paul adds that by loving our neighbors, we are fulfilling the law.

Romans 13:8-10 *Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

Solomon also says that we are to avoid wicked people because of the strong influence they have on us. This is something we need to understand (and Paul talks about this as well) because we are still in the flesh, and the flesh sometimes has a very powerful pull on us. We cannot say that we will always be strong and resist the wicked's influence because our flesh can overwhelm us and convince us to be part of that wickedness.

2 Corinthians 6:14-16a *Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial[2]? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16a What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols?*

Let us see what Solomon says about loving our neighbors and avoiding wicked people.

I. Doing Good for Others (27-28)

Proverbs 3:27-35

27 *Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act.*

28 *Do not say to your neighbor, "Come back later; I'll give it tomorrow"—when you now have it with you.*

- Solomon is using negative terms to teach positive things
 - "Do not" both times
 - He is saying to do the opposite of what he says not to do
- Do not withhold good
 - What he is saying is that we are to do good for others
 - Those who are in need or deserving of it
 - We have the way and opportunity to help others

- Examples

Deuteronomy 22:1-4 *If you see your brother's ox or sheep straying, do not ignore it but be sure to take it back to him. 2 If the brother does not live near you or if you do not know who he is, take it home with you and keep it until he comes looking for it. Then give it back to him. 3 Do the same if you find your brother's donkey or his cloak or anything he loses. Do not ignore it. 4 If you see your brother's donkey or his ox fallen on the road, do not ignore it. Help him get it to its feet.*

Proverbs 25:21 *If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.*

James 2:14-16 *What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? 15 Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?*

- I'll give it tomorrow
 - Selfishness
 - Putting off one's duty is sin of omission (not doing what you are supposed to be doing)

II. Keeping Confidence Between People (29-30)

29 *Do not plot harm against your neighbor, who lives trustfully near you.*

30 *Do not accuse a man for no reason—when he has done you no harm.*

- Do not harm
 - This is a friend who trusts you and keeps you in confidence (full trust)
 - This friend has no suspicion of you
 - When you plot harm against him, you are committing the greatest treachery Bible warns against

Psalms 41:7-9 *All my enemies whisper together against me; they imagine the worst for me, saying, 8 "A vile disease has beset him; he will never get up from the place where he lies." 9 Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.*

- You are a Judas Iscariot when you do such things
- Do not accuse
 - The idea is to quarrel with a man for no reason
 - This person will find faults or mistakes in others and bring it up over and over again

Romans 12:17-21 *Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is Mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. 20 On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

III. Final Exhortation (31-35)

31 *Do not envy a violent man*

or choose any of his ways,

32 *for the LORD detests a perverse man*

but takes the upright into His confidence.

33 *The LORD's curse is on the house of the wicked,*

but He blesses the home of the righteous.

34 *He mocks proud mockers*

but gives grace to the humble.

35 *The wise inherit honor,*

but fools He holds up to shame.

- God rejects
 - Violent and perverse men
 - Why? They have rejected God's word
 - They have increased sin for themselves
 - They mock sacred things of God
 - He pours out His wrath upon them
 - He curses their house (where they live and their family)
 - He withdraws hope from them (puts them to shame)
- God favors
 - The upright (the humble)
 - They know his truth and desire to do His will
 - They try to live right with others
 - God gives them grace
 - He blesses their home life
 - He gives them hope and glorifies them at the end