

## **Proverbs 22, Dec 2, 2024 -Men's Monday Morning Bible Study**

### **Overview:**

Ten commands: four are positive (6, 10, 17a, 17b), six are negative (22a, 22b, 24a, 24b, 26a, & 28a)

### **Commentary:**

FOTL (4) Fearing God is equated with humility. How do you think this is? How is it that humility and FOTL are the same thing?

The results are riches, glory and life. Amen!

Parenting (6 & 15)

V6 is one of the most well-known proverbs. "Train" is a command. Again, proverbs are not promises but rather descriptions of how life normally goes.

The obligation of parents is to actually train them.

Who and whose are you? What are you? Where did you come from? What is the purpose of life? What should you be doing? What should matter to you? What are our values? What things do they need to know and be able to do when they leave your house?

You set your children up for success when you instill these things in them. In general, it serves them well and they are indeed advantaged.

V15 is all about discipline. Kidner calls it "knocking the nonsense out."<sup>1</sup> Children, especially young children, need much discipline. They are foolish and full of folly. The goal of discipline is self-discipline. They need to love what is good, right, true, and beautiful and hate the opposites.

Discipline your kids on purpose, with purpose, for the glory of God.

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<sup>1</sup> Kidner, Proverbs; p148.

## Legacy (1)

Create a name if you don't have one. Teach your children the value of reputation. Teach them how hard it is to build and how easy it is to lose. Your name can be a legacy, an inheritance.

If you have a great name, you are highly advantaged. Use it wisely. Don't disappoint your parents.

V7 Money provides leverage in relationships and life. Dave Ramsey has made a career out of this verse. He is not wrong to distrust debt. Many people misuse it. The ultimate position is to be the one doing the lending.

### **Commands:**

V10 "Drive out a scoffer, and strife will go out, even contention and disgraces will cease."

Is it actually a command or is it telling about a circumstance. Either way, the point is the same. There are situations in which the problem is centered around a single person. Get rid of the person, get rid of the problem. On an organizational level, sometimes what is needed is a personnel extraction not a reform. "You're fired," as the Donald said. It's not the only tool, nor is it the first tool to try, but it is sometimes the solution. Bobby used to say, "some people will make you be the boss." I had a three strike rule over a period of a year. However, if someone always ran two strikes but wasn't hitting consistent home runs, that was not good either. The stress of reprimand must be warranted by productivity.

V17 "Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, and set your heart on my knowledge."

Make effort to get wisdom from those who have it. Do it intentionally and on purpose. "Alert concentration"<sup>2</sup> is necessary.

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<sup>2</sup> Kidner, Proverbs; p149.

V22 “Do not rob the poor because he is poor, and do not crush the afflicted at the gate; for YHWH will plead their case and rob the soul of those who rob them.”

God will kill those who take advantage of disadvantaged people. They exercise power over the weak... and so will God... only they are the unsuspecting weak.

Lending to the poor is also mentioned in vs 9, & 16.

V24 “Do not befriend a man of anger and do not come along with a man of great wrath.” Choose your friends and don’t choose a hot head. Stay away from him. Keep your distance.

V26 “Do not be among those who strike hands in pledge among those who become guarantors for debts.”

Don’t make reckless promises. It’s a bad idea to overextend yourself. Don’t be naïve.

V28 “Do not move the ancient boundary which your fathers made.”

Greed is probably the motivator and focus of this verse. However, the emphasis is on the highhandedness of it.<sup>3</sup> This is dishonesty and cheating. Be a man of integrity.

V29 Be skilled. Do marriage, family, church, and vocation well. Many guys today want to pursue comfort and pleasure. Be comfortable being stretched and get pleasure from forward movement in these areas.

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<sup>3</sup> Kidner, Proverbs; p150.

Closing Prayer:

Father, help us to walk in faithfulness and wisdom. Help us to be diligent and skillful in all of life. Make us men of wisdom who are usable by You. We invite Your Spirit to lead and teach us. Bless us for Your sake. In Jesus' name, Amen.