

Second Baptist Church of Doylestown
Bible Study Notes Book of Proverbs—Proverbs 29

1/9/13

Wisdom On Avoiding Stubbornness

THEME: Wisdom For The Leaders (Chapters 25-31)

PURPOSE: Solomon wanted to impart wisdom to all people, regardless of their age, sex, or position in society. These short, wise sayings give us practical wisdom for daily living. We should study them diligently and integrate them into our life.

OUTLINE:

1. ACCEPTING CRITICISM (29:1) : If you refuse to accept criticism, you will be broken.
2. WISDOM AND WICKEDNESS (29:2-8): "The man who loves wisdom brings joy to his father. ... Evil people are trapped by sin."
3. FACTS ABOUT A FOOL (29:9-11): A fool has no restraint on his emotions.
4. POTENTATES AND THE POOR (29:12-14): If a king honors liars, all his advisers will be wicked. He will have a long reign if he is fair to the poor.
5. SPANKING, NOT SPOILING (29:15-17): Discipline produces wisdom, but spoiling a child brings a mother disgrace.
6. NO REVELATION, NO RESTRAINT (29:18-19): If people are not wise and accept guidance, they run wild.
7. THOUGHTLESS SPEECH (29:20-26): There is more hope for a fool than for one who speaks without thinking.
8. THE GODLY AND THE UNGODLY (29:27) : They detest each other.

Proverbs 29
(New International Version)

(Verse 1) ACCEPTING CRITICISM (29:1) : If you refuse to accept criticism, you will be broken.

Whoever remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed—without remedy.

(Verses 2-8) WISDOM AND WICKEDNESS (29:2-8): "The man who loves wisdom brings joy to his father. ... Evil people are trapped by sin."

²When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan. ³A man who loves wisdom brings joy to his father, but a companion of prostitutes squanders his wealth. ⁴By justice a king gives a country stability, but those who are greedy for bribes tear it down. ⁵Those who flatter their neighbors are spreading nets for their feet. ⁶Evildoers are snared by their own sin, but the righteous shout for joy and are glad. ⁷The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern. ⁸Mockers stir up a city, but the wise turn away anger.

(Verses 9-11) FACTS ABOUT A FOOL (29:9-11): A fool has no restraint on his emotions.

⁹ If a wise person goes to court with a fool, the fool rages and scoffs, and there is no peace. ¹⁰ The bloodthirsty hate a person of integrity and seek to kill the upright. ¹¹ Fools give full vent to their rage, but the wise bring calm in the end.

(Verses 12-14) POTENTATES AND THE POOR (29:12-14): If a king honors liars, all his advisers will be wicked. He will have a long reign if he is fair to the poor.

¹² *If a ruler listens to lies, all his officials become wicked. ¹³ The poor and the oppressor have this in common: The LORD gives sight to the eyes of both. ¹⁴ If a king judges the poor with fairness, his throne will be established forever.*

PROVERBS 29:13

"The LORD gives light to the eyes of both" means that everyone depends on God for sight. Both the oppressor and the poor have the gift of sight from the same God. God sees and judges both, and his judgment falls on those whose greed or power drives them to oppress the poor.

(Verses 15-17) SPANKING, NOT SPOILING (29:15-17): Discipline produces wisdom, but spoiling a child brings a mother disgrace.

¹⁵ *A rod and a reprimand impart wisdom, but a child left undisciplined disgraces its mother. ¹⁶ When the wicked thrive, so does sin, but the righteous will see their downfall. ¹⁷ Discipline your children, and they will give you peace; they will bring you the delights you desire.*

PROVERBS 29:15

Parents of young children often weary of disciplining them. They feel like all they do is nag, scold, and punish. When you're tempted to give up and let your children do what they want, or when you wonder if you've ruined every chance for a loving relationship with them, remember that kind, firm correction helps them learn, and learning makes them wise. Consistent, loving discipline will ultimately teach them to discipline themselves.

PROVERBS 29:16

When the wicked are in leadership, sin prevails. In any organization—whether a church, a business, a family, or a government—the climate comes from the top. The people become like their leaders. What kind of climate are you setting for the people you lead?

(Verse 18-19) NO REVELATION, NO RESTRAINT (29:18-19): If people are not wise and accept guidance, they run wild.

¹⁸ *Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction. ¹⁹ Servants cannot be corrected by mere words; though they understand, they will not respond.*

PROVERBS 29:18

"Divine guidance" refers to words from God received by prophets. Where there is ignorance of God, crime and sin run rampant. Public morality depends on the knowledge of God, but it also depends on keeping God's laws. In order for nations and individuals to function well, people must know God's ways and keep his rules.

(Verses 20-26) THOUGHTLESS SPEECH (29:20-26): There is more hope for a fool than for one who speaks without thinking.

²⁰ Do you see someone who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for them. ²¹ A servant pampered from youth will turn out to be insolent. ²² An angry person stirs up conflict, and a hot-tempered person commits many sins. ²³ Pride brings a person low, but the lowly in spirit gain honor. ²⁴ The accomplices of thieves are their own enemies; they are put under oath and dare not testify. ²⁵ Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe. ²⁶ Many seek an audience with a ruler, but it is from the LORD that one gets justice.

PROVERBS 29:24

This proverb is saying that a thief's accomplice won't tell the truth when under oath. Thus, by his perjury, he will hurt himself.

PROVERBS 29:25

Fear of people can hamper everything you try to do. In extreme forms, it can make you afraid to leave your home. By contrast, fear of God—respect, reverence, and trust—is liberating. Why fear people who can do no eternal harm? Instead, trust God who can turn the harm intended by others into good for those who trust him.

(Verse 27) THE GODLY AND THE UNGODLY (29:27): They detest each other.

²⁷ The righteous detest the dishonest; the wicked detest the upright.