

## Lesson 4: **Proverbs on Parenting**

### I. Introduction

- A. What are some vital lessons non-Christian parents try to impart to their children?
- B. Aside from the gospel, if you could successfully impart one truth to your children, what would it be?
- C. As we shall see, the Proverbs contain Solomon's soliloquy to his sons, instructing them on the need for wisdom and the necessity of fearing the Lord. Of all the lessons Solomon could emphasize, why do you suppose he chose these two?

### II. Background

King Solomon, who ruled Israel from 971–931 B.C., was given supernatural wisdom from God that made him wiser than all other men (2 Kings 4:29-33). The title “The Proverbs of Solomon” is not an absolute statement of authorship (1:1); rather, this book contains ancient wisdom Solomon compiled from a variety of sources,<sup>1</sup> along with many original proverbs he contributed himself.<sup>2</sup>

At the heart of Solomon’s writings is the concept of wisdom. The Hebrew word for wisdom can have the nuance of “skill” (as it does in Exodus 28:3), particularly the skill of choosing the right course of action for the desired result. Through wisdom the naive become sensible, politicians become wise, and people are crowned with honor and riches (Prov. 8:1–21).<sup>3</sup> In the covenantal framework of Proverbs, wisdom denotes “skill in the art of godly living.”<sup>4</sup>

### III. Interpreting the Proverbs

Like any tool, wisdom must be used skillfully. For instance, a hammer can be used to remove a nail, drive a nail, or injure one’s thumb. The same can be said of wisdom. This explains the seemingly contradictory and consecutive advice in Proverbs 26:4-5:

<sup>4</sup>*Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself.*

---

<sup>1</sup> 22:17-24:34 and possibly 25-29 which was copied and included later by Hezekiah

<sup>2</sup> 1:1-22:16

<sup>3</sup>Harris, R. Laird ; Harris, Robert Laird ; Archer, Gleason Leonard ; Waltke, Bruce K.: *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. electronic ed. Chicago : Moody Press, 1999, c1980, S. 283

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.esvbible.org/resources/esvsb/introduction-to-proverbs/>

<sup>5</sup>**Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes.**

- Why do you think the author places these contradictory proverbs back to back?
- How do we discern when to use verse 4 and when to use verse 5?

Wisdom requires that we not only know the proverbs themselves, but that we also have the skill and good judgment to know when to use them. The same is also true of common English proverbs; for example, “Many hands make light work” must be balanced with, “Too many cooks spoil the broth.” Although these proverbs seem contradictory, they aren’t; they simply have different applications. Wisdom helps us to know when to apply each one.

Since the proverbs require flexibility, we should be careful not to confuse proverbial prescriptions with promises or commands. Proverbs, of necessity, focus on *consequences*. They are short and snappy and highlight general truths. They are not nuanced to handle every single situation.

Consider the English proverb, “A stitch in time saves nine.” The short phrasing makes this easy to memorize, but its proverbial nature does not qualify or nuance this saying with “most of the time” or “except when it’s irreparably broken.” A competent reader understands this and can walk away knowing that it’s *usually* better to make a little fix right away, rather than allow a problem to grow.

In the same way, Proverbs present pithy sayings designed to motivate certain behaviors. The author observes a slice of reality and draws an important lesson from it.

Consider, for example, Proverbs 24:30-34:

<sup>30</sup>**I passed by the field of a sluggard, by the vineyard of a man lacking sense, <sup>31</sup>and behold, it was all overgrown with thorns; the ground was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down.**

The observer sees the vineyard of a sluggard and notes that it is in complete disrepair and is unproductive. From this picture he looks for a lesson:

<sup>32</sup>**Then I saw and considered it; I looked and received instruction.**

And what does the author conclude from this slice of reality?

<sup>33</sup>**A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, <sup>34</sup>and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.**

Looking at this snapshot of reality, he concludes that laziness leads to poverty. Note that Solomon does not nuance this thought with exceptions—though surely he knew many lazy, wealthy young men who never worked a day in their lives. What he is looking for is the general rule: Hard work is what keeps us from poverty.

In light of this, we should think of the Proverbs as teaching moments based on real-life situations. Their usefulness can be found by asking the following questions:

- (1) What *virtue* does this proverb commend?
- (2) What *vice* does it condemn?
- (3) What *value* does it affirm?
- In light of all this, what would be the danger of seeing Proverbs as promises?
- Why do the Proverbs have to be applied with wisdom?
- It is interesting that God frames so much of His instruction on parenting in the context of wisdom, rather than rote prescriptions and promises. What does this suggest about the need for discretion as we parent?

#### IV. The Purpose of Proverbs

In Proverbs 1:1-7 Solomon explains his own purpose for collecting the proverbs:

*The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel: <sup>2</sup> To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight, <sup>3</sup> to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity; <sup>4</sup> to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth— <sup>5</sup> Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance, <sup>6</sup> to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles. <sup>7</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

- A. What is the purpose of the Proverbs (vv. 2-3)?
- B. Who is the target of this instruction (v. 4)?
- C. What is the basis of wisdom (v. 7)?
- D. What is the response of the fool to wisdom (v. 7)?
- E. From this section, what should be our goal in parenting our children?

#### V. The Two Paths of Children

A. Wisdom and Folly:

What do the following proverbs teach about the difference between a wise and a foolish child?

1. Proverbs 10:1 ***The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother.***
2. Proverbs 10:23 ***Doing wrong is like a joke to a fool, but wisdom is pleasure to a man of understanding.***
3. Proverbs 13:1 ***A wise son hears his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.***
4. Proverbs 15:5 ***A fool despises his father's instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is prudent.***
5. Proverbs 15:20 ***A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish man despises his mother.***

B. The Characteristics of Foolishness:

According to the following Proverbs, what are the characteristics of a fool?

1. Proverbs 1:29 ***Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD,***
2. Proverbs 17:12 ***Let a man meet a she-bear robbed of her cubs rather than a fool in his folly.***
3. Proverbs 18:6 ***A fool's lips walk into a fight, and his mouth invites a beating.***
4. Proverbs 29:11 ***A fool gives full vent to his spirit, but a wise man quietly holds it back.***

C. The Consequences of Foolishness:

According to the following proverbs, what are the consequences of foolishness?

1. Proverbs 1:32 ***For the simple are killed by their turning away, and the complacency of fools destroys them;***
2. Proverbs 5:22-23 ***The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is held fast in the cords of his sin. <sup>23</sup>He dies for lack of discipline, and because of his great folly he is led astray.***
3. Proverbs 10:1 ***The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother.***

4. Proverbs 17:21 ***He who sires a fool gets himself sorrow, and the father of a fool has no joy.***
5. Proverbs 17:25 ***A foolish son is a grief to his father and bitterness to her who bore him.***
6. Proverbs 19:13 ***A foolish son is ruin to his father, and a wife's quarreling is a continual dripping of rain.***
7. Proverbs 20:20 ***If one curses his father or his mother, his lamp will be put out in utter darkness.***
8. Proverbs 30:17 ***The eye that mocks a father and scorns to obey a mother will be picked out by the ravens of the valley and eaten by the vultures.***

D. The Blessings of Wisdom:

What do the following proverbs teach us about the impact of wise children on their parents?

1. Proverbs 23:24-25 ***The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice; he who fathers a wise son will be glad in him.***<sup>25</sup> ***Let your father and mother be glad; let her who bore you rejoice.***
2. Proverbs 29:17 ***Discipline your son, and he will give you rest; he will give delight to your heart.***

VI. How to Give Our Children Wisdom

A. Proverbs 3:11-12 ***My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof, <sup>12</sup>for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.***

1. What two commands does the author give?
2. Why shouldn't a son despise the Lord's discipline?
3. What insights does this give into the purpose and nature of discipline? How do discipline and reproof impart wisdom?

B. Proverbs 20:11 ***Even a child makes himself known by his acts, by whether his conduct is pure and upright.***

1. What does this passage teach about how to discern whether you have a wise or foolish child?
2. What types of actions reveal the heart of a child (whether foolish or wise)?
3. How can this proverb help in parenting? How does it help us to impart wisdom?

C. Proverbs 4:3-4 ***When I was a son with my father, tender, the only one in the sight of my mother, he taught me and said to me, “Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live.”***

1. In what manner was wisdom imparted to the author?
2. How should we impart wisdom to our children? Why is this the case?

D. Proverbs 6:20 ***My son, keep your father’s commandment, and forsake not your mother’s teaching.***

1. What prescription does the author give us?
2. How is wisdom imparted in this context?

E. Proverbs 13:24 ***Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.***

1. What actions and motivations does the author contrast in this proverb?
2. Given what we learned from this proverb, why is a lack of discipline unloving?

F. Proverbs 19:18 ***Discipline your son, for there is hope; do not set your heart on putting him to death.***

1. What parental actions does the author contrast?

2. What is the basis for disciplining your child?
3. How might failure to discipline doom the child (cf. Prov. 1:32; 10:27; 21:25)?
4. How does this passage push back against many modern theories of parenting?

G. Proverbs 22:6 ***Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.***

1. What is the general sense of this passage?

**Note:** *Train* speaks of dedication (Deut. 20:5; 1 Kings 8:63; 2 Chron. 7:5). To dedicate something is to set it aside for narrower use. For instance, the altar is dedicated, meaning that it cannot be used as a table or a fire pit. Child training involved narrowing behavior from evil to godliness.

2. Should we take this proverb as a promise? Why or why not?
3. How can this passage help us in parenting? How can it motivate us?
4. How do the following negative examples help us to understand the need for discipline?

1 Samuel 2:22–25, 29 <sup>22</sup> ***Now Eli was very old, and he kept hearing all that his sons were doing to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who were serving at the entrance to the tent of meeting.*** <sup>23</sup> ***And he said to them, “Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all these people.*** <sup>24</sup> ***No, my sons; it is no good report that I hear the people of the LORD spreading abroad.*** <sup>25</sup> ***If someone sins against a man, God will mediate for him, but if someone sins against the LORD, who can intercede for him?” But they would not listen to the voice of their father, for it was the will of the LORD to put them to death...***  
In verse 29 the Lord rebukes Eli with, <sup>29</sup> ***‘Why then do you scorn my sacrifices and my offerings that I commanded for my dwelling, and honor your sons above me by fattening yourselves on the choicest parts of every offering of my people Israel?’***

1 Kings 1:5–6 ***Now Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, “I will be king.” And he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him.*** <sup>6</sup> ***His father had never at any time displeased him by asking, “Why have you done thus and so?” He was also a very handsome man, and he was born next after Absalom.***

H. Proverbs 22:15 ***Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.***

1. What does this passage teach about the natural disposition of children?

2. What prescription does the author give for remedying this?

I. Proverbs 23:13-14 ***Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you strike him with a rod, he will not die.*** <sup>14</sup>***If you strike him with the rod, you will save his soul from Sheol.***

1. What contrast does the author present?

2. What prescription does he offer?

3. What insight does this proverb give us for parenting?

4. How can this passage be taken too far?

## VII. Instructions for Children

As you recall, the purpose of the book of Proverbs is to impart fatherly wisdom to children. Thus, we could say that every proverb deals with parenting in some way. When we survey the Proverbs we see the following list of desirable attributes.

A. Positive Attributes:

1. Caution and prudence (14:16; 27:12)
2. Contentment (15:16-17; 16:8; 17:1)
3. Diligence and industriousness (6:6-11; 11:27; 12:24; 13:4; 15:19; 18:9, 19:24; 20:4, 13; 21:5; 22:13; 26:13-16)
4. Discretion in choosing friends (13:20; 18:24), particularly a spouse (18:22; 31:10-31)
5. Faithfulness in friendship (17:17) and otherwise (28:20)
6. Forthrightness (rather than duplicity; 16:30; 17:20)
7. Generosity (11:24; 19:6)
8. Gentleness (15:1, 4)
9. Graciousness (16:24)
10. Humility (16:19; 18:12; 22:4)
11. Integrity of Character (15:27; 28:18)

12. Justice (Prov. 11:1; 16:11; 17:23; 20:10, 23; 31:8-9)
13. Kindness (11:17)
14. Patience (25:15)
15. Purity (20:9; 22:11)
16. Restraint (17:14, 27-28; 18:6-7; 29:20)
17. Righteousness (12:21, 28; 14:34)
18. Self-Control, particularly of speech (12:18; 13:3; 21:23) and temper (14:17, 29; 15:18; 16:32; 19:11; 25:28)
19. Skillfulness in work (22:29)
20. Truthfulness and honesty (12:22; 16:13; 24:26)

- i. How are children to learn these virtues?
- ii. If parents want to impart these virtues to their children, what are some specific steps they should take?

B. Negative Attributes:

1. Arrogance and Vanity (21:24)
2. Pleasure-Seeking Lifestyle (21:17; 23:20-21; 28:7)
  - i. Why do you suppose there are so many more positive than negative attributes?
  - ii. What is the danger of parenting to restrain folly rather than training our children to be righteous?
  - iii. What hinders a parent from developing virtue in their children?
  - iv. How would you respond to the following objection, “Since we can’t save our children, I simply need to teach them the gospel. When they are saved, these virtues will naturally spring forth from the Spirit”?
  - v. How would you respond to the objection, “If I press these virtues before they embrace the gospel, my children will become little Pharisees”?
  - vi. How would you respond to the following: “I don’t need to teach my children these truths because they will pick up virtue from my example”?

### **VIII. Thought Questions**

- A. What is the danger of treating the Proverbs as commands?
  
- B. How would you answer the following objection: “If the Proverbs don’t have binding force, what use do they have?”
  
- C. Why do you suppose God gives so much discretion to parents?
  
- D. How can the Proverbs help you to be a faithful parent?

### **IX. Questions for Reflection**

- A. Would your child be characterized as a wise or foolish child? Why?
  
- B. What evidence of foolishness do you see in your child? How can the wisdom from Proverbs help you to address this foolishness?
  
- C. What are some virtues your children need to develop? Select some proverbs which will help them do so (see Addendum).

### **X. Conclusion**

The entire book of Proverbs is an act of parenting, as the author seeks to inculcate his sons with wisdom. In light of this, the Proverbs are a useful tool which a wise parent will resort to often. We want our children to experience the blessings of wisdom, which begins with the fear of the Lord. Those parents who have benefited from such wisdom in their own lives will in turn eagerly instruct their children in the wise ways of God. After the gospel, nothing will bring greater blessing to our children than the fear of the Lord and a disposition to receive wisdom.



**Addendum:**

# **Positive and Negative Attributes in Proverbs**

## **I. Positive Attributes:**

### **A. Caution and prudence**

Proverbs 14:16 *One who is wise is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and careless.*

Proverbs 27:12 *The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it.*

### **B. Contentment**

Proverbs 15:16-17 *Better is a little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble with it.*  
<sup>17</sup> *Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a fattened ox and hatred with it.*

Proverbs 16:8 *Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice.*

Proverbs 17:1 *Better is a dry morsel with quiet than a house full of feasting with strife.*

### **C. Diligence and industriousness**

Proverbs 6:6-11 *Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. <sup>7</sup> Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, <sup>8</sup> she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest. <sup>9</sup> How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? <sup>10</sup> A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, <sup>11</sup> and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.*

Proverbs 11:27 *Whoever diligently seeks good seeks favor, but evil comes to him who searches for it.*

Proverbs 12:24 *The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor.*

Proverbs 13:4 *The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.*

Proverbs 15:19 *The way of a sluggard is like a hedge of thorns, but the path of the upright is a level highway.*

Proverbs 18:9 *Whoever is slack in his work is a brother to him who destroys.*

Proverbs 19:24 *The sluggard buries his hand in the dish and will not even bring it back to his mouth.*

Proverbs 20:4 *The sluggard does not plow in the autumn; he will seek at harvest and have nothing.*

Proverbs 20:13 *Love not sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes, and you will have plenty of bread.*

Proverbs 21:5 *The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.*

Proverbs 22:13 *The sluggard says, “There is a lion outside! I shall be killed in the streets!”*

Proverbs 26:13-16 *The sluggard says, “There is a lion in the road! There is a lion in the streets!”<sup>14</sup> As a door turns on its hinges, so does a sluggard on his bed.<sup>15</sup> The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; it wears him out to bring it back to his mouth.<sup>16</sup> The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly.*

**D. Discretion in choosing friends, particularly a spouse**

Proverbs 13:20 *Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.*

Proverbs 18:24 *A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*

Proverbs 18:22 *He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD.*

Proverbs 31:10-31 *An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels.<sup>11</sup> The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.<sup>12</sup> She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.<sup>13</sup> She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands.<sup>14</sup> She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from afar.<sup>15</sup> She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens.<sup>16</sup> She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.<sup>17</sup> She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong.<sup>18</sup> She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night.<sup>19</sup> She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle.<sup>20</sup> She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.<sup>21</sup> She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household are clothed in scarlet.<sup>22</sup> She makes bed coverings for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple.<sup>23</sup> Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land.<sup>24</sup> She makes linen garments and sells them; she delivers sashes to the merchant.<sup>25</sup> Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.<sup>26</sup> She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.<sup>27</sup> She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.<sup>28</sup> Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:<sup>29</sup> “Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.”<sup>30</sup> Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.<sup>31</sup> Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.*

**E. Faithfulness in friendship and otherwise**

Proverbs 17:17 *A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.*

Proverbs 28:20 *A faithful man will abound with blessings, but whoever hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.*

F. Forthrightness (rather than duplicity)

Proverbs 16:30 *Whoever winks his eyes plans dishonest things; he who purses his lips brings evil to pass.*

Proverbs 17:20 *A man of crooked heart does not discover good, and one with a dishonest tongue falls into calamity.*

G. Generosity

Proverbs 11:24 *One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.*

Proverbs 19:6 *Many seek the favor of a generous man, and everyone is a friend to a man who gives gifts.*

H. Gentleness

Proverbs 15:1 *A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.*

Proverbs 15:4 *A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.*

I. Graciousness

Proverbs 16:24 *Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.*

J. Humility

Proverbs 16:19 *It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor than to divide the spoil with the proud.*

Proverbs 18:12 *Before destruction a man's heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor.*

Proverbs 22:4 *The reward for humility and fear of the LORD is riches and honor and life.*

K. Integrity of Character

Proverbs 15:27 *Whoever is greedy for unjust gain troubles his own household, but he who hates bribes will live.*

Proverbs 28:18 *Whoever walks in integrity will be delivered, but he who is crooked in his ways will suddenly fall.*

L. Justice

Proverbs 11:1 *A false balance is an abomination to the LORD, but a just weight is his delight.*

Proverbs 16:11 *A just balance and scales are the LORD's; all the weights in the bag are his work.*

Proverbs 17:23 *The wicked accepts a bribe in secret to pervert the ways of justice.*

Proverbs 20:10 *Unequal weights and unequal measures are both alike an abomination to the LORD.*

Proverbs 20:23 *Unequal weights are an abomination to the LORD, and false scales are not good.*

Proverbs 31:8-9 *Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. <sup>9</sup> Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.*

M. Kindness

Proverbs 11:17 *A man who is kind benefits himself, but a cruel man hurts himself.*

N. Patience

Proverbs 25:15 *With patience a ruler may be persuaded, and a soft tongue will break a bone.*

O. Purity

Proverbs 20:9 *Who can say, "I have made my heart pure; I am clean from my sin"?*

Proverbs 22:11 *He who loves purity of heart, and whose speech is gracious, will have the king as his friend.*

P. Restraint

Proverbs 17:14 *The beginning of strife is like letting out water, so quit before the quarrel breaks out.*

Proverbs 17:27-28 *Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding. <sup>28</sup> Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent.*

Proverbs 18:6-7 *A fool's lips walk into a fight, and his mouth invites a beating. <sup>7</sup> A fool's mouth is his ruin, and his lips are a snare to his soul.*

Proverbs 29:20 *Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.*

Q. Righteousness

Proverbs 12:21 *No ill befalls the righteous, but the wicked are filled with trouble.*

Proverbs 12:28 *In the path of righteousness is life, and in its pathway there is no death.*

Proverbs 14:34 *Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.*

R. Self Control, particularly of speech and temper

Proverbs 12:18 *There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.*

Proverbs 13:3 *Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life; he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.*

Proverbs 21:23 *Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble.*

Proverbs 14:17 *A man of quick temper acts foolishly, and a man of evil devices is hated.*

Proverbs 14:29 *Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly.*

Proverbs 15:18 *A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger quiets contention.*

Proverbs 16:32 *Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.*

Proverbs 19:11 *Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.*

Proverbs 25:28 *A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls.*

S. Skillfulness in work

Proverbs 22:29 *Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.*

T. Truthfulness and honesty

Proverbs 12:22 *Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who act faithfully are his delight.*

Proverbs 16:13 *Righteous lips are the delight of a king, and he loves him who speaks what is right.*

Proverbs 24:26 *Whoever gives an honest answer kisses the lips.*

## **II. Negative Attributes:**

### **A. Pleasure-Seeking Lifestyle:**

Proverbs 21:17 *Whoever loves pleasure will be a poor man; he who loves wine and oil will not be rich.*

Proverbs 23:20-21 *Be not among drunkards or among gluttonous eaters of meat,<sup>21</sup> for the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and slumber will clothe them with rags.*

Proverbs 28:7 *The one who keeps the law is a son with understanding, but a companion of gluttons shames his father.*

### **B. Arrogance and Vanity:**

Proverbs 21:24 *“Scoffer” is the name of the arrogant, haughty man who acts with arrogant pride.*