

Righteousness & Relationships

Text: Proverbs 11:1-31

Introduction

Chapter 10 opened with, “*The proverbs of Solomon*” (v.1). We found that we were entering a collection of tidbits of wisdom that he was attempting to instill in his son. The warnings and wisdom found in chapter 10 tell us “the folly of the fool.”

Chapter 11 turns to another aspect of wisdom. Solomon wants his son to understand that wisdom is not simply an inward matter. It affects every avenue of life. When a man is a fool, his whole life is affected. However, wisdom also displays itself in its relationships.

Throughout chapter 11, Solomon refers twelve times to the benefits of living a righteous life. As we have already seen, righteousness and wisdom go hand-in-hand.

When a man is righteous and/or wise, his relationships are also Christ-honoring. Notice what Solomon says concerning these relationships. He states that a righteous man is...

I. _____ in His Dealings (vv. 1-8).

LIFE PRINCIPLE #28: _____

A righteous man is honest because...

A. It reveals a _____ heart (i.e., pleasing to the Lord; v.1; cf. 16:11; 20:10).

1. God is _____ by dishonesty (v.1a)

2. God is _____ by integrity (v.1b).

B. It reveals a _____ heart (v.2).

1. The _____ of heart (v.2a; cf. 16:11-18).

2. The _____ of heart (v.2b).

C. It reveals a _____ heart (v.3)

1. Integrity guides to a _____ life.

2. Perverseness guides to a _____ life.

D. It reveals a _____ heart (i.e. set apart; vv. 4-8). —*Notice...*

1. The _____ of the righteous.

2. The _____ of the wicked.

—v.4 reminds the wicked that the _____ of man cannot appease the _____ of God.

II. Careful in His _____ (vv. 9-13).

A. He does not _____ his neighbor (v.9; cf. James 3:8-10).

1. The hypocrite _____.
2. The righteous _____.

B. He does not _____ iniquity (vv. 10-11; cf. Isa. 5:20).

1. Righteousness _____ a nation (v.10).
2. Wickedness _____ a nation (v.11).

C. He does not _____ with his neighbor (v.12; cf. Pro. 18:21).

1. Ignorant people _____ their neighbor (v.12a).
2. Informed people control their _____ (v.12b).

D. He does not tell all he knows (v.13).

1. Gossips cannot keep a _____.
2. Wise people _____ their lips.

LIFE PRINCIPLE #29: _____

III. Thoughtful in His _____ (vv. 14-15).

LIFE PRINCIPLE #30: _____ (v.14)

—Getting good advice will...

A. Provide _____ (v.14).

1. The _____ of getting no advice.
2. The _____ of getting good advice.

NOTE: We should never be afraid to ask for advice because everybody knows something you don't know.

B. Prevent _____ (i.e., being a co-signer; v.15; cf. 17:18).

1. Willingness to co-sign will _____ a man (cf. Pro. 22:26-27).
2. Refusing to co-sign will _____ a man.

IV. Respectful in His Actions (vv. 16-22).

LIFE PRINCIPLE #31: _____ (v.22)

- A. _____ (v.16). —*Considerate of others.*
—Thoughtful people are not self-_____ people.
- B. Merciful (i.e., kind, v.17). —*Be kind to others.*
—Mercy begets _____.
- C. Dependable (v.18, i.e., they keep on ‘til harvest). —*Be honest with others.*
—Always be _____ with others.
- D. Spiritual (vv. 19-22). —*Be an example to others.*
—_____ of righteousness (v.19).
—_____ of holiness (v.20; cf. v.1).

V. _____ of Himself (vv. 24-26).

LIFE PRINCIPLE #32: _____.

- A. Give of yourself _____ (v.24; i.e, time, talents, etc.)
—cf. Lk. 6:38
- B. Determine to be a _____ (v.25; “*liberal*” means “blessing”).
—Be willing to _____ to others.
- C. _____ what you have (v.26; cf. Lk. 6:38b).
—Be willing to share the Word of Life also!

VI. He is _____ in His Attitude (vv. 27-29).

LIFE PRINCIPLE #33: _____.

- A. The _____ attitude finds good (vv. 27-28).
- B. The _____ attitude ruins the home (v.29).

VII. Concerned for His _____ (vv. 30-31).

LIFE PRINCIPLE #34: _____.

- A. Wants to win _____ (v.30).

B. Warns of coming _____ (v.31).

Conclusion

No matter how righteous our relationships have been, if we fail on the last one, then we have utterly failed. What difference does it make if we have hundreds of friends, and leave them to die and go to hell?

How righteous are your relationships with others?