

## The Features of a Godly Life

Text: Proverbs 17:1-27

### Introduction

In chapter 16, we saw the description of the Godly life that is focused upon the Lord. The wise and Godly person understands that *God Rules* (LP #58) and that *Nothing is Accidental* (LP #66).

As we enter chapter 17, we continue to see the contrast of the wise and the foolish. We see the features of the wise life as Godliness is displayed. We see, in contrast, the features of the wicked life as foolishness is displayed. We see the. . .

### **I. Contented Life of the Wise** (vv. 1-3). —*It is a life of...*

A. \_\_\_\_\_ (v.1; cf. Php. 4:10-13; Col. 3:15).

1. \_\_\_\_\_ with the Savior (v.1a; cf. Psa. 46:10; Isa. 30:15).

2. \_\_\_\_\_ with strife (v.1b).

—Man has turned his worship from the \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_.

B. \_\_\_\_\_ (v.2). —*An inheritance from God.*

1. Not one of \_\_\_\_\_, but of \_\_\_\_\_ (i.e., acting wisely).

—God can take an impossible situation and make it \_\_\_\_\_!

2. Not one of \_\_\_\_\_, but of *parity* (i.e., equality).

C. \_\_\_\_\_ (v.3; i.e., purifying).

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of purity (cf. Rom. 8:28-29; 1 Jn. 3:2).

2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of purity.

—God, alone, is able to purify the hearts and its motives. We should \_\_\_\_\_ trust our hearts (cf. Pro. 3:5-6; 28:26; Jer. 17:9).

### **II. Contentious Life of the Fool** (vv. 4-5). —*The fool. . .*

A. Love to hear \_\_\_\_\_ about others (v.4).

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ to hear gossip.

**Life Principle # 67:** \_\_\_\_\_

2. The willingness to believe gossip.

—One who believes gossip about others, is a liar also!

B. Laughs at the \_\_\_\_\_ of others (v.5).

1. \_\_\_\_\_ no compassion for the poor.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ with others suffer.

### III. Contrasted Life of the Wise & Fool (vv. 6-14).

A. Fools have sorrowful \_\_\_\_\_ (v.6; cf. v.2; 25; 10:1)

1. What a child is supposed to be.  
— \_\_\_\_\_ of a father's leadership (i.e., "a crown").
2. What a father is supposed to be.  
— \_\_\_\_\_ of their children.

B. Fools have running \_\_\_\_\_ (v.7; cf. vv. 27-28).

1. Fools sound \_\_\_\_\_ when they try to sound wise.
2. Leadership should maintain \_\_\_\_\_.

C. Fools can be \_\_\_\_\_ (v.8).

1. A bribe looks \_\_\_\_\_.
2. A bribe \_\_\_\_\_ justice (cf. Ex. 23:8; Deut. 16:19).

D. Fools cannot keep their \_\_\_\_\_ shut (v.9).

1. Wise people \_\_\_\_\_ a secret.
2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Life Principle # 68:** \_\_\_\_\_

- E. Fools cannot be \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 10-11, 16).
1. No one can \_\_\_\_\_ wisdom into a fool (vv. 10-11).
  2. A fool will not \_\_\_\_\_ in wisdom, because he does not \_\_\_\_\_ wisdom.

F. Fools are \_\_\_\_\_ (v.12; cf. 14:7).

**Life Principle # 69:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. A fool will attack without \_\_\_\_\_ (v.12).
2. A fool is to be \_\_\_\_\_ (14:7).

G. Fools are \_\_\_\_\_ (v.13).

1. A fool shows no \_\_\_\_\_ (v.13a; cf. Rom. 1:21).
2. Ingratitude stops \_\_\_\_\_ (v.13b).

H. Fools are \_\_\_\_\_ (v.14; cf. James 1:8).

1. A little \_\_\_\_\_ can give way to a great flood!
2. Walk away from an argument, before it becomes a \_\_\_\_\_.

I. Fools are not \_\_\_\_\_ (v.15; cf. 14:15).

1. Cannot distinguish between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Cannot be acceptable with \_\_\_\_\_.

J. Fools are not good \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 17-18).

1. \_\_\_\_\_ a friendship (v.17).
2. \_\_\_\_\_ a friendship (v.18).

**Life Principle # 70:** \_\_\_\_\_

K. Fools are self-\_\_\_\_\_ (v.19).

1. To love \_\_\_\_\_, is to love strife (v.19a).
2. To love \_\_\_\_\_, is to invite destruction (v.19b; cf. 16:18).

L. Fools are perpetual critics (v.20).

1. A perpetual \_\_\_\_\_.

**Life Principle # 71:** \_\_\_\_\_

2. A perpetual \_\_\_\_\_.

M. Fools can kill their \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 21-22, 25). —*They kill with. . .*

1. Sorrow vs. \_\_\_\_\_ (v.21).

Solomon may have had Rehoboam in mind when he wrote this proverb. He may have given thought to greatness of the kingdom that God had allowed him to build, and he realized that Rehoboam would probably destroy it all in one foolish decision.

*“It takes skill to build. Any fool can knock things down.”* (John Phillips)

2. Grief vs. \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 22, 25).

**Life Principle # 72:** \_\_\_\_\_

N. Fools show their little wisdom with their many words (vv. 27-28).

**Life Principle # 73:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. A man’s \_\_\_\_\_ does not always reveal his knowledge (v.27).

2. A fool can look wise, if he will only \_\_\_\_\_ wise (v.28).