

**The Facts of Life**  
Text: Proverbs 21:1-31

Introduction

Chapter 21 instructs us concerning the realities of life. Again the contrast will be seen between the wise and the foolish. We have already seen that *Fools Make Life a Joke* (Life Principle #27; Pro. 10:23).

We often think of the “facts of life” as that instruction which concerns the subject of “where babies come from.” However, the reality of life is that there are many more indisputable facts concerning life. A person becomes wise by being willing to *look, listen* and *learn* (v.11).

Let us consider the facts concerning. . .

**I. Who \_\_\_\_\_ Life** (vv. 1-2).

**LIFE PRINCIPLE #84:** \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 1 makes it plain that God is Sovereign and in control of everyone, including the king. The One whose throne is higher than the highest is the One who rules and reigns in the affairs of men. He rules concerning. . .

A. The \_\_\_\_\_ on life (v.1).

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the heart (“...*in the hand of the LORD*...”).
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the heart (“...*he turneth it*...”).

B. The \_\_\_\_\_ of life (v.2; cf. 16:33).

1. Man’s \_\_\_\_\_ of his life.
2. God’s \_\_\_\_\_ for his life.

**II. What \_\_\_\_\_ in Life** (vv. 3-4).

A. That which is \_\_\_\_\_ of God (v.3).

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of obedience.  
—God desires \_\_\_\_\_ more than our sacrifice (cf. I Sam. 15:1-23).
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ by obedience.  
—Obedience is proof of our \_\_\_\_\_ for Him (cf. Jn. 14:15).

B. That which is \_\_\_\_\_ by God (v.4).

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ attitude (i.e., “*high look, proud heart*”).
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ actions (i.e., of the sinner).

—Nothing that \_\_\_\_\_ the wicked does can please God (cf. 15:8; 21:27; 28:9). His praying, his plowing and his praising are all sins before God!

### III. What is \_\_\_\_\_ in Life (vv. 5-20).

A. Developing a right \_\_\_\_\_ ethic (vv. 5-8).

1. \_\_\_\_\_ your work (v.5; cf. 15:22 - L.P. #55).

QUOTE: “*One of the greatest obstacles to success in life is the mismanagement of time.*” (John Phillips)

2. Be \_\_\_\_\_ in your work (vv. 6-7).

3. Be \_\_\_\_\_ in your work (v.8).

B. Marrying the \_\_\_\_\_ spouse (vv. 9-11, 19; cf. I Kings 21:25b).

1. Be willing to stay \_\_\_\_\_ instead of marrying just anyone (v.9).

**LIFE PRINCIPLE #85:** \_\_\_\_\_

2. Be willing to listen \_\_\_\_\_ you get married (v.11).

C. Revealing the right \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 12-20).

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ for others (vv. 12-15).

—Willing to \_\_\_\_\_ to those in need (cf. early church in Acts).

2. A \_\_\_\_\_ for learning (vv. 16-17).

—Become more concerned about piety than \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. II Tim. 3:4).

3. A planning for the \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 20)

—Wise men do not spend all they \_\_\_\_\_. They plan for the future (cf. 13:22; 27:23; illustrate with Matt. 25:3).

4. A \_\_\_\_\_ of righteousness (v.21).