

The Book of Proverbs is so important & immensely beneficial. It's the best manual on people skills because it was given by the God who made us, the God who knows us, the God who understands us, and the God who faithfully instructs us by His Spirit through His Word.

Background to Proverbs 3:27ff

- Proverbs is about **wisdom**: skill for *living*.
 1. He gave the **PRIORITY** of wisdom (Prov 3.1-12)
 2. He gave the **PROTECTION** of wisdom (Prov 3.13-26)
 3. Now he gives the **PRACTICALITIES** of wisdom (Prov 3.27-35)

Proverbs 3:27-35 are covenant obligation w/ neighbors in 2 ways:

1. prohibition = DO NOT ... (5x = v27-28, 29-30, 31)
2. explanation = w/ following reasons (“for”—v.32-35)

THESIS — As Solomon fleshes out the **practicalities** of wisdom for his son, we will hear this urgent counsel in 2 main headings.

You'll see how Proverbs practically impacts your daily life. You must listen up & obey it or suffer great consequences!

I. MY SON! AVOID THIS! (27-31)

A. Do not withhold good (27-28)

- Pay it timely
- Pay if fully
- Pay it cheerfully - don't withhold good; if you owe it, pay it!
- Pay it evangelistically.

B. Do not harm your neighbor (29-30)

C. Do not envy the wicked (31)**II. MY SON! HERE’S WHY! (32-35)**

- But! v.32ff continues by giving the **reason** “For” [v.32;]

A. Shocking negatives

1. God **hates** perverted people (32a)
2. He **curses** the wicked’s house (33a)
3. God **mocks** the mockers (34a)
4. God **disgraces** fools (35b)

What else is an abomination to God?

1. idolatry (Deut 7.25)
2. homosexuality (Lev 18.22-30)
3. human sacrifice/abortion/child killing (Deut 12.31)
4. occult activity (Deut 18.9-14)
5. prostitution (1 Kings 14.23)
6. dishonest business practices (Deut 25.13-16)
7. bad sacrifices to God (Deut 14.3-8)

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.

O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live
O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross

All who gather here by grace draw near and bless
Your name

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?
Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Meditate, O my soul, upon this Divine grace. You see the necessity of it—O pray earnestly for it, and for more of it. The great idol SELF must be dethroned where God reigns. You can not walk with Him—unless you are humble in heart. And if you have been walking with Him, you will be taught to stop, whenever you begin to look at SELF with admiration. O beg of the Lord, then, to give you the true Gospel poverty of spirit. It is to be in constant practice, and used for everything; for you see how it keeps up fellowship with God, who makes the greatest communications of Himself to His humblest child. And the reason is plain; because they return Him all His glory. If therefore you would have much grace in exercise—pray for much humility.

— *William Romaine (1770)*

We have no true religion about us, until we cast away our high thoughts, and feel ourselves sinners. This is the grace which all saints may follow after, and which none have any excuse for neglecting. All God's children have not gifts, or money, or time to work, or a wide sphere of usefulness; but all may be humble. This is the grace, above all, which will appear most beautiful in our latter end. Never shall we feel the need of humility so deeply, as when we lie on our deathbeds, and stand before the judgment-seat of Christ. Our whole lives will then appear a long catalogue of imperfections, ourselves nothing, and Christ all.

— *JC Ryle*