

Proverbs 29

1 He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy. As in many places in the Bible, the hard neck is used as a figure of speech to speak of the stubborn attitude that resists and disobeys God. This proverb speaks about the man who is often rebuked but doesn't listen to the rebuke; instead he hardens his neck. This stubborn, rebellious man continues in his disobedience for a long time, until he is suddenly...destroyed. This describes the kind of person who thinks judgment will never come for his rejection of wisdom and stubborn heart against God.

2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn. It is to the benefit of the community or nation when the righteous are in authority. This shows that when the righteous govern, it should be for the benefit of the entire community, not only their own interests.

3 Whoso loveth wisdom rejoiceth his father: but he that keepeth company with harlots spendeth his substance.

4 The king by judgment establisheth the land: but he that receiveth gifts overthroweth it. There are many ways that justice can be abused, but this is one of the worst ways. Bribes destroy the foundations of fairness and the law.

5 A man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a net for his feet. "Beware of a flatterer; he does not flatter merely to please you, but to deceive you and profit himself." (Clarke)

6 In the transgression of an evil man there is a snare: but the righteous doth sing and rejoice.

If transgression belongs to the evil man, then singing and rejoicing belong to the righteous. The singing and rejoicing are an expression of what is inside them, just as much as the transgression is an expression of what is inside the evil man.

7 The righteous considereth the cause of the poor: but the wicked regardeth not to know it.

8 Scornful men bring a city into a snare: but wise men turn away wrath.

9 If a wise man contendeth with a foolish man, whether he rage or laugh, there is no rest.

10 The bloodthirsty hate the upright: but the just seek his soul. Those given to violence and brutality (the bloodthirsty) simply hate the blameless, both because of their life and because the message of the blameless convicts the bloodthirsty.

11 A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.

12 If a ruler hearken to lies, all his servants are wicked. "A king, a president, or any chief executive officer must set a high standard and rigorously maintain it or face the consequences of corruption running rampant in his administration." (Garrett)

13 The poor and the deceitful man meet together: the LORD lighteneth both their eyes.

14 The king that faithfully judgeth the poor, his throne shall be established for ever. Part of the responsibility of a king or any leader is to make judgments, and sometimes those regarding the poor and disadvantaged. That king or leader must be careful to not show partiality against (or for) the poor, but to make judgment according to truth.

15 The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to

shame. The principle of the first line of this proverb is especially true regarding children. Children who are never trained with loving correction often bring shame to their parents.

16 When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth: but the righteous shall see their fall.

17 Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul. Many proverbs speak of the importance of correcting and training our children. If we leave them to themselves, to their peers, or to the culture around them and fail to correct them, they will be an ongoing source of trouble and strife, giving us no rest.

18 Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he. "More on this verse next Week."

19 A servant will not be corrected by words: for though he understand he will not answer. The problem with this person is not mental or intellectual. He understands well enough; the problem is that he will not respond, obey, or act in wisdom.

20 Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him. Proverbs often teaches us that a mark of a fool is that they don't have control over what they say. They are hasty in their words.

21 He that delicately bringeth up his servant from a child shall have him become his son at the length. The idea is of a man who is overly soft and generous towards his servant. He worries too much about making life easy and pleasant for his servant. This isn't always in a good sense. The one who pampers his servant will make the servant so attached to him that he will end up with another obligation and another person who expects an inheritance.

22 An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression. When the angry or furious man spreads his strife, it makes transgression abound.

23 A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit. Because God resists the proud ([James 4:6](#) and [1 Peter 5:5](#)), pride will naturally bring a man low. Like Satan, the one who hoped to rise higher through his pride will fall ([Isaiah 14:13-15](#)). Just as much as God resists the proud, He also gives grace to the humble (again, [James 4:6](#) and [1 Peter 5:5](#)). God's gracious blessing to the humble in spirit means they will gain and retain honor.

24 Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul: he heareth cursing, and bewrayeth it not.

25 The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

26 Many seek the ruler's favour; but every man's judgment cometh from the LORD.

27 An unjust man is an abomination to the just: and he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked. Many people of good heart but not enough courage live in bondage to the fear of man. They worry far too much about what people think, instead of first being concerned about what God and wisdom say, and what integrity would lead them to do. This is a snare that traps many people. "There is one sin which I believe I have never committed; I think that I have never been afraid of any of you, and I hope, by the grace of God, that I never shall be. If I dare not speak the truth upon all points, and dare not rebuke sin, what is the good of me to you? Yet I have heard sermons which seemed to me to have been made to the order of the congregation. But honest hearers want honest preaching; and

if they find that the preachers message comes home to them, they thank God that it is so." (Spurgeon)

When we depend upon man for our justice, our security, or our prosperity, we will be disappointed.