

PROVERBS: ALIGNING TO GOD'S FIXED MORAL ORDER

Part III: Displaying God's Fixed Moral Order

Q. Viewing Specific Proverbs Of God's Fixed Moral Order (Proverbs 26:1-28)

I. Introduction

- A. After motivating a young man to heed an observed fixed moral order, the literary genre of the Egyptian *sboyet* that the Book of Proverbs uses works to supply actual proverbs to reveal that order, cf. Bruce Waltke, "The Book of Proverbs and Ancient Wisdom Literature," *Bibliotheca Sacra*, 136:543, p. 221-238.
- B. Solomon reveals that order to be **God's** order for his son to heed. We continue that study of that order:

II. Viewing Specific Proverbs Of God's Fixed Moral Order From Proverbs 26:1-28.

- A. A son must learn that, as a future leader, he must avoid assigning a fool who does not adhere to God's fixed moral order in a place of honor: it is inappropriate and may injure others who follow him, Pr. 26:1.
- B. Similarly, a son must not treat one with dishonor who is honorable: it will not be productive, Prov. 26:2.
- C. A son must learn to control subordinates not aligned to God's moral order by strong, forceful means, 26:3.
- D. A son must learn to pick his conflicts with a party not aligned with God's moral order carefully: such a conflict often costs him dearly, but he cannot let a fool go too unrestrained lest he do worse harm, 26:4-5.
- E. A son must learn to avoid using one not aligned to God's fixed moral order to deliver a message: it is better not to have tried to deliver a message than to use such a party to deliver a wrong message, 26:6!
- F. A son must learn to resist heeding the insight of a party not aligned to God's fixed moral order: such advice is as effective as a lame man's legs, which actually become a liability to him, Proverbs 26:7!
- G. A son must learn to avoid honoring one not aligned to God's fixed moral order lest the honor do more damage than good in a time of crisis, Proverbs 26:8.
- H. A son must learn to resist heeding the insight of a party not aligned to God's fixed moral order: such insight as applied will do as much damage as a thorn bush in the hand of a drunkard, Proverbs 26:9.
- I. A son must learn to hire only those parties he carefully surveys if he would avoid eventual great harm, 10.
- J. A son must learn that a party separated from God's fixed moral order does not learn to avoid his disgusting mistakes from experience: he has to be forcibly motivated or restrained for success, 26:11, 3.
- K. A son must learn to have little hope of success for a man who is wise in his own eyes: only a teachable party who sees he must continually gain insight is a party who has hope for success, Proverbs 26:12.
- L. A son must discern people who lack "follow up" as those not heeding God's fixed moral order: (1) they go to great measure to avoid taking responsibility (26:13); (2) if they do assume responsibility, they often do not exert the energy to address real needs (26:14); (3) if they do exert the energy, they often do not finish their tasks once they get attempt them (26:15), and (4) they are unteachable, Proverbs 26:16.
- M. A son must learn to avoid meddling in the disputes of others lest he suffer undue harm himself, 26:17.
- N. A son must learn not to deceive and then claim he was only joking: deception is no joking matter, 18-19.
- O. A son must see that refusing to pass gossip about only quenches disputes among people, Pr. 26:20.
- P. Similarly, a son must learn to avoid a quarrelsome man if he would stay out of useless strife, 26:21.
- Q. A son must learn to avoid gossip as it tends to stick to a party, harming a reputation even if unproven, 22.
- R. A son must be very cautious of those with fervent, moving speech: if such speech is deceptively hiding an evil heart, it can do much damage as many accept its words as truth, Proverbs 26:23.
- S. A son must learn that such parties, being malicious, are harmful, making him very cautious of them, 23-25.
- T. A son must see that waiting for a party with impressive words to be examined in public will expose if he is upright: thus, he should learn to **wait** for verification before banking on those with such words, 26:26.
- U. A son must avoid trying to entrap others, for doing so will backfire on the schemer, Proverbs 26:27.
- V. A son must learn to avoid deceivers, liars and flatterers: they all work ruin by hatred toward others, 26:28.

Lesson: From these proverbs, we learn that a youth is much better off learning from his parents that heeding God's ways is to his own distinct advantage in the adult world.

Application: (1) We parents must have the courage under God's leading to inform our maturing sons and daughters of the **VALUE** of heeding God's fixed moral order. (2) As maturing children or as adults ourselves, we can apply these truths to our own lives for eventual blessings.