

Proverbs - Chapter 6

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Chapter 6 deals with several different subjects. The hazards of someone who is lazy are discussed. People who continually cause trouble, especially among the people of God, are cautioned against. There are also warnings against adultery discussed in this chapter.

In a way, it sums up much of what we have seen in the previous 5 chapters.

READ [v.1 – v.5](#)

[v.1 – v.5](#) – All of us have it within ourselves, for the most part, to want to help others in need. All of us have given money, food, or our time to someone who is genuinely in need of assistance.

We have to be careful, however, because there are some people in this world who make their living off the kindness and generosity of others. While they are able and could work to earn a living if they wanted to, they would rather take from others, either through force or by begging, to get what they want.

These verses are not a plea against generosity, but against us overextending our financial resources and acting in an irresponsible way that could lead to poverty. We have to learn to “live within our means.”

We all have “wants” that do not necessarily match up with our “needs”. We always find trouble when we let our “wants” dictate where we use our resources.

God wants us to help our friends and the needy – we should do this. But, He does not, however, promise that He will cover the costs of every unwise commitment that we make. It is important to maintain a good balance between generosity and good stewardship. It is equally important to act responsibly so our families do not suffer.

READ [v.6 – v.11](#)

[v.6 – v.11](#) – I grew up in a family that farmed. 6:30 AM was late to them – EVERY morning! Even in the summers when I was out of school on summer “vacation”, my time was spent priming tobacco,

plowing or discing the fields, picking vegetables and produce, cutting grass, or any other thing my Dad could think up for me to do. I'd be lying if I told you that I enjoyed it back then.

But, in retrospect, I now appreciate the work ethic that Dad instilled in me way back then. I usually don't sleep late now, even when I can. Ginger tells me that I love what I do so much, that I'll never retire!

Truthfully, I do enjoy working. But I also realize that everyone is not like me. Some people dread getting up and going to work every day, even if it is working around their own house.

That alarm clock goes off, and we come to a quick realization that it's time to get out of bed and begin the day. What do we immediately do? We hit the snooze button for just a few more minutes – and that sleep over the next 7-8 minutes is some of the best rest ever get. We lay there and savor those last few minutes as we resist getting up to begin another workday.

That's fine and well, but Proverbs warns against giving in to the temptation of laziness, of sleeping instead of working. That certainly does not mean we should never rest. God gave the Jewish people (and us) the Sabbath day, a weekly day of rest and relaxation, so we could be restored for the next week's work.

We should resist resting when we should be working. If laziness turns us from our responsibilities, poverty will soon be at our doorstep, barring us from the legitimate rest we should be enjoying.

Proverbs makes it clear that diligence – being willing to work hard and do one's best at any job given to him or her – is a vital part of wise living. We work hard, not to become rich, famous, or admired (although God may bless us for that to occur), but to serve God with our very best during our lives.

| The Diligent | The Lazy | Proverbs Reference |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Become rich | Are soon poor | 10: 4 |
| Gather their crops | Sleep during harvest | 10: 5 |
| | Are an annoyance | 10: 26 |
| Are prosperous | Are idle | 12: 11 |
| Gain many benefits | | 12: 14 |
| Will become leaders | Will become slaves | 12: 24 |
| Make good use of resources | Waste good resources | 12: 27 |

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|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Are fully satisfied | Want much, but get little | 13:4 |
| Bring profit | Experience poverty | 14:23 |
| Have an easy path | Have trouble all through life | 15:19 |
| | Are like those who destroy | 18:9 |
| | Go hungry | 19:15 |
| | Won't feed themselves | 19:24 |
| | Won't plow in season | 20:4 |
| Stay awake and have food to spare | Love sleep and grow poor | 20:13 |
| Make careful plans | Take hasty shortcuts | 21:5 |
| Love to give | Desire things, but refuse to work for them | 21:25-26 |
| | Are full of excuses for not working | 22:13 |
| Will serve before kings | | 22:29 |
| | Sleep too much, which leads to poverty | 24:30-34 |
| Reap abundance through hard work | Experience poverty because of laziness | 28:19 |

READ [v.12 – v.15](#)

[v.12 – v.15](#) - Over the next several verses, Solomon talks about the danger our tongue can get us into.

Did you ever know anyone who just had a knack for saying the wrong thing at the wrong time?

Illustration: A police officer pulled a man and a woman over on a deserted road for speeding. Since the road was pretty clear and the weather was not a factor, the officer indicated that he might not give them a ticket. He even complimented them both on wearing their seatbelts. The wife leaned over and said, "Well, officer, when you drive the speeds we do, you have to wear them." The officer then began to write them the ticket.

In the first several verses of this section, Solomon speaks about how unwise it is for us to lie and gossip.

When we lie to each other, we rob God of His glory in our lives. Our lives, especially as Christians, should be lived to glorify and edify God, not to tear Him down. Every word of God is truthful, and if we are truly in His image, our words will be truthful as well.

Lying is basically telling or saying something that we know is not factual. Gossip is basically being a false witness against our neighbor, and the Ten Commandments tell us that we should not engage in such actions.

Illustration: Donna Eder, a sociologist at Indiana University researched people who gossip for a period of three years, and made an important discovery. She found that the initial negative statement was not the starting point for gossip. The turning point was found in the response to the initial statement. When someone agreed with the initial statement was when the gossip really began. Eder found that when a negative statement was agreed to (or "seconded") is when the gossip had really started.

Quote: "Whoever gossips to you will gossip about you." - Unknown

READ [v.16 – v.19](#)

[v.16 – v.19](#) – These verses speak to seven things that are considered an abomination by God. The word abomination means an outrage, a disgrace, an atrocity. God deems these seven things to be as such, and as Christian, we should do our best to avoid them.

A Proud Look

This literally means "haughty or lofted eyes". In other words, a proud look is the idea that we are better than everyone else.

[Proverbs 16:18](#) "Pride goeth before destruction and an haughty spirit before a fall."

This is the same type of attitude displayed by the Pharisee in [Luke 18](#).

When we think of ourselves as perfect, or better than everyone else, we put ourselves on a pedestal, many time even above God. We feel we have no room for improvement. But the contrary is true - we are

all just sinners, hopefully saved by the grace and mercy of Almighty God.

[Philippians 2:3](#) "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory. But in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves."

"The ground is level at the foot of the Cross."

A Lying Tongue

We've touched on this briefly earlier, but lying is something that God deems to be an outrage. Nothing can destroy character any quicker than someone who routinely lies.

[Revelation 21:8](#) "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Survey Statistics from "The Day America Told the Truth":

- 91% - Lie about matters they consider to be trivial
- 36% - Lie about matter they consider to be important
- 86% - Lie to parents regularly
- 75% - Lie to friends
- 73% - Lie to siblings
- 69% - Lie to spouses

God is not pleased when we lie. No good ever comes from it, and Solomon warns us to avoid engaging in this unwise activity.

Hands that Shed Innocent Blood

In [Exodus 20:13](#), God tells us, "**Thou shalt not kill.**" There are times for war, as mentioned in [Ecclesiastes 3](#). We even have the death penalty in many states for crimes committed against others.

However, this refers to the shedding of innocent blood. We are reminded of murderers who take the lives of innocent people, many times for no reason.

But what this reminds me of is abortion. I think this scripture is very simply the Biblical basis for standing against abortion. When a baby is aborted, very plain and simply, it's murder. It's a life that has

developed through a miracle of God, and taking that life is considered an abomination by Him.

After only 3 weeks following conception, the heart beats on its own. At 6 weeks, the baby starts to move around and brain waves are present. At 8 weeks, the baby will grab things with their hands and have a measurable heartbeat. At 12 weeks, the baby cries, sucks their thumb, and sleeps. All of their organs and systems, including mental functions, are in operation. As a result, the unborn baby can feel pain. At this point, they are fully developed – what occurs from this point forward is just a growth and maturing process.

With that in mind, how could someone ever take the life of a child like this?

A Heart That Devises Wicked Imaginations

Wicked imaginations mean thoughts that are centered on iniquity. These are not just thought that are wrong, but those that center on willfully doing evil.

As humans, we all have thoughts that we should not dwell on. However, I think what Solomon is referring to here is someone who has evil thoughts in their hearts and minds and yields control of themselves to Satan.

[Matthew 15:19](#) “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.”

Quote: “We must be careful what we bury in our hearts. To bury something does not mean it is dead. It may simply mean we have buried something alive that will devour and destroy us from within.” - Maxie Dunham

[2 Corinthians 10:5](#) “Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”

Feet That Are Swift in Running to Mischief

Solomon is speaking here of people that move quickly to carry out a sin that has already been thought of in the heart. This is much more than just falling into sin, or stumbling in our daily lives. This is common to all of us.

Rather, this is speaking of the execution of a premeditated act.

This reminds me of the JFK assassination. This was planned for months before it was carried out. The action was thought of, dwelled upon, planned, and carried out.

When we engage in sin this way, we basically saying to God, "I know what is right and what is wrong, and I am choosing to do what is wrong."

In my opinion, that is a dangerous stance to take before Almighty God.

[Proverbs 1:15-16](#) "My son, walk not thou in the way with them. Refrain thy foot from their path. For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood."

[Isaiah 59:7](#) "Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood. Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity. Wasting and destruction are in their paths."

A False Witness that Speaks Lies

In giving the Ten Commandments, God told us, "**Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.**" **[Exodus 20:16](#)**

This passage literally means "he that breathes out or utters a false witness."

People's lives have been ruined by people telling falsehoods against them. I am sure there are some innocent people in jail because someone told something untrue about them and perjured themselves on the witness stand.

Multiple false witnesses were brought before the chief priest looking to find some wrong in Jesus.

[Matthew 26:59-61](#) "Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death. But found none. Yea, though many false witness came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses, and said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days."

People Who Sow Discord Among the Brethren

Solomon puts emphasis here on men and women who intentionally seek to destroy harmony and unity, specifically among believers in God.

The one thing that most often destroys and splits churches is discord. Of course, we are all different. And with those differences come opinions. When those opinions are in conflict with each other, we have a choice to make. We can disagree in a Christian manner, or we can dig our heels in and lash out at those who differ with us. On Biblical tenets, we should never compromise, nor apologize for doing so. But the things that typically cause friction in a church are usually trivial things where a little give and take from both sides would likely solve the problem.

We get so busy trying to be proven right that we forget we're Christians. If we are wise, we will always remember that, although we might disagree on certain things, we are all (or should be) brothers and sisters in Christ.

Quote: "Hot heads and cold hearts never solved anything." - Rev. Billy Graham

Illustration: Three churches - a Baptist, a Methodist, and a Presbyterian - worked together to hold a community revival. After the revival concluded, the three pastors were talking about the results with each other. The Methodist minister said, "The revival worked great for us. We gained four families as new members of our congregation." The Presbyterian minister said, "We did even better than that. We gained six new families as members of our congregation." The Baptist minister said, "We didn't do too bad either. We got rid of our ten biggest troublemakers."

My goal for Powhatan is that we have long-term unity, and that when someone walks into this church, they can literally feel the power of God at work.

[Matthew 5:9](#) "Blessed are the peacemakers. For they shall be called the children of God."

Quote: "What will it profit a man if he gains his cause, and silences his adversary, if at the same time he loses that humble, tender frame of spirit in which the Lord delights, and to which the promise of His presence is made? - John Newton

READ [v.20 – 23](#)

[v.20 – v.23](#) – As children grow older, it is natural and good for them to strive to become independent of their parents. Ginger and I are experiencing that very fact right now. Young adults, however, should take care not to adhere to the advice given to them by their parents – to reject their advice just when they may need it most.

We need to encourage our young adults, as well as all of our children, to come to us with their needs, decisions they are wrestling with, and for our insight. The extra years that God has blessed us with may have given us the wisdom and expertise we can impart to them. They may not realize how valuable it is now, but one day they will.

READ [v.24 – 25](#)

[v.24 – v.25](#) – Solomon reminds us to view lust as a sign of danger ahead. Although this refers to lusting after a woman (or someone of the opposite sex), it could really be anything. Whenever we allow lust to take control of our lives, or find that we are lusting after something in our hearts, we need to take this need to God immediately.

These types of desires can preoccupy our thoughts, draw us away from God, and lead us to sin.

We need to come before God and ask Him to change our desires before we are drawn into sin. Taking the time to do this could save us a great deal of unneeded pain, as well as those closest to us.

READ [v.26 – 35](#)

[v.26 – v.35](#) – Solomon ends this chapter with another warning against sexual sins. As we discussed in Chapter 5, it was almost entirely devoted to enjoying this type of intimacy within the covenant of marriage.

The world may argue that it is acceptable to break God's laws against sexual sins as long as no one gets hurt. In reality, someone always gets hurt. Spouses are devastated. Children are scarred. The partners themselves lose their ability to fulfill commitments, to feel true desire, to trust, and to be entirely open with each other.

God's laws on this subject are not arbitrary. We cannot pick and choose which ones we want to obey and which ones we do not. They

do not forbid good clean fun. However, they do warn us against destroying ourselves and others through unwise actions or running ahead of God's timetable.