

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 160 – Even A Child Is Known By Works Through Don't Curse Parents (Proverbs 20:11-20)

1. Can you know a child by what he or she does?

Yes: *"Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right"* (**Proverbs 20:11**).

- **Luke 6:43-44**
- Children, unless mentally incapable, reach a point wherein they know to do good or evil (**Isaiah 7:16**).
- Children can be taught and expected to do right (**Deuteronomy 6:7** and **Ephesians 6:1-4**).
- A child left alone is not going to end up good (**Proverbs 29:15**).

2. To whom do we owe credit for our abilities to see and hear?

The Lord: *"The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD hath made even both of them"* (**Proverbs 20:12**).

- **Genesis 1:27, Exodus 4:11, Isaiah 40:28, Isaiah 42:5, Isaiah 45:12, and Revelation 4:11.**

3. Is it good to love to sleep?

No: *"Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; open thine eyes, and thou shalt be satisfied with bread"* (**Proverbs 20:13**).

- **Proverbs 6:9-11, Proverbs 10:4, Proverbs 13:4, Proverbs 19:15, Proverbs 24:30-34, Romans 12:11, and Hebrews 6:12.**
- This does not mean we cannot rest (**Exodus 23:12** and **Matthew 26:46**) or take time away from things (**Mark 6:46**).

4. Are there people who are dishonest when trading merchandise?

Yes: *"It is naught, it is naught, saith the buyer: but when he is gone his way, then he boasteth"* (**Proverbs 20:14**).

- **Proverbs 11:1**
- The Lord takes vengeance on crooks (**I Thessalonians 4:6**).
- Whether we're trying to drop the price of something or not, we must always be HONEST (**Romans 12:17, Ephesians 4:25, and I Peter 2:12**).

5. What are the lips of knowledge called (in our context)?

"There is gold, and a multitude of rubies: but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel" (**Proverbs 20:15**).

- **Proverbs 8:11, Proverbs 25:11, Ecclesiastes 12:9-11, Acts 26:24-26, and Ephesians 4:29.**

6. If someone was a surety [one taking responsibility for the debt of another] for a stranger, were there measures in place to be sure the debt was recovered?

Yes: *“Take his garment that is surety for a stranger: and take a pledge of him for a strange woman... Take his garment that is surety for a stranger, and take a pledge of him for a strange woman”* (**Proverbs 20:16** and **Proverbs 27:13**).

- See also: **Proverbs 6:1-5**, **Proverbs 11:15**, **Proverbs 17:18**, and **Proverbs 22:26-27**.
- ASV translates this verse as this: *“Take his garment that is surety for a stranger; And hold him in pledge that is surety for foreigners”* (**Proverbs 20:16**; ASV 1901).

7. Even if deception seems sweet, what is the end result likened to?

“Bread of deceit is sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel” (**Proverbs 20:17**).

- **Job 20:5**, **Proverbs 9:17-18**, and **Isaiah 47:8-9**; cf. **Hebrews 11:24-25**.

8. Is it good to get counsel?

By implication, yes: *“Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war”* (**Proverbs 20:18**).

- **Proverbs 11:14**, **Proverbs 15:22**, **Proverbs 24:6**; cf. **Proverbs 19:20-21**!
- Discussion and counsel are good for us even in spiritual matters (**Acts 15**).

9. Should we interact with those who flatter with their lips?

No: *“He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips”* (**Proverbs 20:19**).

- Talebearing is not good (**Leviticus 19:16**, **Proverbs 18:8**, and **Proverbs 26:20-22**).
- There are people who say on thing and feel another (**Psalms 28:3**, **Psalms 55:21**, **Proverbs 5:3-4**, **Matthew 26:21-25**, and **John 12:1-6**).
- We should avoid those who use flattery (**Proverbs 26:24-28** and **Romans 16:17-18**).

10. What will happen to those who curse his or her parents?

“Whoso curseth [bring into contempt] his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness” (**Proverbs 20:20**).

- **Exodus 20:12**, **Exodus 21:17**, **Proverbs 30:17**, and **Ephesians 6:1-4**.