

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 178 – Laziness and Strife (Proverbs 26:13-21)

1. Does a slothful person try to find excuses not to work?

Yes: *“The slothful man saith, There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets” (Proverbs 26:13).*

- **Proverbs 15:19, Proverbs 20:4, Proverbs 22:13, and Matthew 25:14-30.**

2. Does the slothful man get out of bed?

As a door that does nothing but turn, the slothful likes to stay in one place [bed]: *“As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth the slothful upon his bed” (Proverbs 26:14).*

- **Proverbs 6:6-11, Proverbs 20:13, Proverbs 24:30-33, and Isaiah 56:10.**

3. Is the slothful man concerned about feeding himself?

No: *“The slothful hideth his hand in his bosom; it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth” (Proverbs 26:15).*

- **Proverbs 12:27, Proverbs 13:4, Proverbs 19:15, and Proverbs 19:24.**

4. How wise does a sluggard convince himself that he is?

Wiser than seven reasonable men: *“The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason” (Proverbs 26:16).*

- Fools are right in their own eyes (**Proverbs 12:15, Proverbs 14:16, Proverbs 16:2, Proverbs 30:12, Luke 18:9-14, II Corinthians 10:17-18, and Philippians 3:7-9**).
- Before we move away from our discussion of laziness, let's be mindful that these points apply spiritually as well (**Hebrews 6:10-12**).

5. Is it wise to get involved in a fight that is not your own?

No: *“He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears” (Proverbs 26:17).*

- **Proverbs 18:6, Proverbs 20:3, II Timothy 2:23, and Titus 3:9-10.**

6. Do people try to conceal what they really are saying or doing by statements such as, “I was just kidding”?

Yes: *“(18) As a mad man who casteth firebrands, arrows, and death, (19) So is the man that deceiveth his neighbour, and saith, Am not I in sport” (Proverbs 26:18-19)?*

- **Proverbs 15:21 and Ephesians 5:4.**

7. Do talebearers add fuel to the fires of strife (so to speak)?

Yes: *"Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth"* (**Proverbs 26:20**).

- Talebearers reveal secrets (**Proverbs 11:13** and **Proverbs 20:19**).
- This causes harm (**Proverbs 18:8**).
- Certainly, fuel is added to the fires of strife by talebearers (**Proverbs 16:28**, **Proverbs 22:10**, **Proverbs 26:22**, and **James 3:5-6**).

8. Do contentious individuals help situations involving strife?

No, they too fuel the fires: *"As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife"* (**Proverbs 26:21**).

- There are those who love to stir up trouble (**Proverbs 10:12**, **Proverbs 15:18**, and **Proverbs 29:22**).
- We're to be peacemakers not troublemakers (**Matthew 5:9**, **Romans 14:19**, and **Hebrews 12:14**).
- The church is not to have contentious individuals within (**I Corinthians 11:16**, **I Timothy 6:3-5**, and **Titus 3:9-11**) as those who are contentious are headed to Hell (**Romans 2:8**).