

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 153 – Lovers Of Strife Through Shutting One’s Mouth (Proverbs 17:19-28)

1. Are those who love strife innocent of sin (transgression)?

No, they love sin: *“He loveth transgression that loveth strife: and he that exalteth his gate seeketh destruction” (Proverbs 17:19).*

- Sin and transgression are the same things (**I John 3:4**).
- Strife is just the beginning of a flood of sin (**Proverbs 17:14**).
- Carnal hatred [not spiritual hatred – **Psalms 5:4-5, Psalms 97:10, Romans 12:9, and Hebrews 1:8-9**] stirs up strife (**Proverbs 10:12**).
- Furious individuals abound in transgression (**Proverbs 29:22**).

- The other point of this verse is about one who exalts or builds up their gate relating similar to that of pride and arrogance. That type of person is looking for trouble (**Proverbs 16:18**).
- Other things are more important than building up your property (**Proverbs 24:27**).

2. Will those of a froward [perverse] heart or a perverse tongue find good in their lives?

No: *“He that hath a froward heart findeth no good: and he that hath a perverse tongue falleth into mischief” (Proverbs 17:20).*

- The heart and tongue are tied together (**Matthew 12:34, Matthew 15:18, and Luke 6:45**).
- **Proverbs 6:12-15, Proverbs 8:13, and Proverbs 10:31-32**.
- We should steer clear of those who have froward hearts (**Psalms 101:2-4**).

3. Will parents find joy in their children if their children are fools (there are two separate verses in our current context to be used in this answer)?

No: *“He that begetteth a fool doeth it to his sorrow: and the father of a fool hath no joy... A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him” (Proverbs 17:21; 25).*

- **Proverbs 10:1, Proverbs 15:20, and Proverbs 17:25**.
- This is one reason for parents not to leave their children without direction (**Proverbs 29:15**).

4. Does it help to have a merry heart opposed to having a broken spirit?

Yes: *“A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones” (Proverbs 17:22).*

- Sorrow can swallow up a person (**Proverbs 12:25, Proverbs 15:13, Proverbs 18:14, and II Corinthians 2:7**).

- *“Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the LORD... He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he” (Psalms 144:15 and Proverbs 16:20).*
5. Will a wicked man use a gift [Strong’s # 7810; “bribe”] to try and pervert judgment?
 Yes: *“A wicked man taketh a gift out of the bosom to pervert the ways of judgment” (Proverbs 17:23).*
- **Exodus 23:8, Deuteronomy 16:19, I Samuel 8:1-5, Psalms 26:9-10, Proverbs 28:21, Isaiah 1:23, and Isaiah 33:15.**
6. Do fools focus on wisdom or do they look in all the wrong places?
 They look everywhere except for in wisdom: *“Wisdom is before him that hath understanding; but the eyes of a fool are in the ends of the earth” (Proverbs 17:24).*
- **Proverbs 14:6 and Ecclesiastes 2:14.**
7. Is it good to punish just individuals?
 No: *“Also to punish the just is not good, nor to strike princes for equity” (Proverbs 17:26).*
- **Proverbs 17:15, Proverbs 18:5, Proverbs 24:23, and Matthew 27:24-25.**
8. Is it better to shut your mouth or to speak freely?
 It is better to shut up: *“He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit. Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding” (Proverbs 17:27-28).*
- **Psalms 39:1, Proverbs 10:19, Proverbs 13:3, Proverbs 15:28, Proverbs 21:23, Ecclesiastes 10:12-14, James 1:19, James 1:26, James 3:1-18, and I Peter 3:10-11.**