

Proverbs 6: Wisdom for Real Life

1. Caution Against Becoming a Guarantor (vv. 1–5)

Solomon opens with a practical warning: *don't make yourself responsible for someone else's debt*. In ancient culture, this was done by striking hands in a public agreement, much like cosigning a loan today. It may feel kind or generous in the moment, but Scripture advises caution. If the borrower fails to pay, the one who guaranteed the loan is legally and financially liable.

"My son, if you become surety for your friend, if you have shaken hands in pledge for a stranger, you are snared by the words of your mouth..." (Proverbs 6:1–2)

The wise course of action? *Get out of the agreement quickly and humbly*. Don't delay. Solomon compares it to escaping a hunter's trap. The principle is simple: avoid entangling yourself in obligations you can't control.

Personal Application:

Be generous, but be wise. There are better ways to help a struggling friend than to jeopardize your own financial future. Ask: *Am I being moved by wisdom or guilt?* God calls us to love others with discernment.

2. A Lesson from the Ant: Avoiding Laziness (vv. 6–11)

"Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise..." (v. 6)

Solomon points to the ant as an example of diligence. Without supervision or external pressure, ants prepare and store for the future. They are self-motivated and hardworking—unlike the sluggard, who procrastinates and sleeps until poverty overtakes him like an armed thief.

Personal Application:

Work is not a curse; it is part of God's design. Diligence brings stability and provision. Laziness, on the other hand, leads to eventual ruin. Consider: *Am I using my time and energy wisely?* Laziness may feel harmless in the moment, but it robs you of opportunities and growth.

3. The Corrupt Character (vv. 12–15)

Solomon describes a person who uses deceit and manipulation to get ahead—one who winks, signals, and schemes. Their heart is filled with perversity, and they sow conflict wherever they go. But this life of treachery leads to a sudden, irreversible fall.

"Therefore his calamity shall come suddenly... without remedy..." (v. 15)

Personal Application:

God sees the heart. Are your words and actions aligned with integrity? If you cut corners or stir division, destruction will eventually follow. Better to walk in truth and reap peace than manipulate and reap ruin.

4. Seven Things the Lord Hates (vv. 16–19)

This list reveals God's moral priorities:

1. A proud look
2. A lying tongue
3. Hands that shed innocent blood
4. A heart that devises wicked plans
5. Feet swift in running to evil
6. A false witness who speaks lies
7. One who sows discord among brethren

These aren't just actions; they reflect inner character. God hates pride, deceit, violence, and especially division among His people.

Personal Application:

We should hate what God hates. Examine your heart: *Am I divisive or peaceable? Honest or deceptive? Proud or humble?* God desires that our lives reflect His heart.

5. Honor Your Parents' Wisdom (vv. 20–23)

"My son, keep your father's command, and do not forsake the law of your mother..." (v. 20)

Godly parental guidance provides protection and direction. Like a lamp, their counsel lights the way and warns of danger.

Personal Application:

Don't dismiss wise instruction, especially from godly parents or mentors. God uses them to shape your life. Their correction, though sometimes hard, is a pathway to life.

6. Warning Against Adultery (vv. 24–35)

Solomon returns to a familiar warning: *stay away from the immoral woman*. Her flattery and beauty are enticing, but the outcome is ruin. Adultery is compared to holding fire close to your chest or walking on hot coals—you will be burned.

"Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; he who does so destroys his own soul." (v. 32)

Adultery doesn't just harm the body; it wounds the soul. It brings dishonor, lasting shame, and often irreparable damage. Jealousy, rage, and the breakdown of trust follow.

Personal Application:

Guard your heart. Lust begins long before action. Jesus warned that even looking with lust is sinful (Matthew 5:28). Run from temptation like Joseph ran from Potiphar's wife. Don't toy with what will destroy you.

Final Reflection:

Proverbs 6 is a practical chapter filled with warnings and wisdom for daily living. It speaks to financial decisions, work ethic, character, relationships, and moral purity. Wisdom isn't just for the spiritual realm—it's for how we live every day.

"Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life." (Proverbs 4:23)

What we allow into our heart shapes our choices, and our choices shape our destiny. Let God's wisdom guard, guide, and transform you in every area of life.