

Proverbs 29 - Wisdom, Righteous Leadership, and the Fear of the Lord

I. The Danger of Rejecting Correction (29:1–3)

Verse 1 — The danger of stubbornness: A person who repeatedly rejects correction will eventually face destruction.

Verse 2 — Righteousness brings joy: People rejoice when the righteous are in authority, but they groan when the wicked rule.

Verse 3 — Wisdom brings joy to parents: Loving wisdom brings joy to a father, while immoral living wastes resources.

*A teachable spirit protects us from destruction, while stubbornness leads us toward it.

II. The Influence of Righteous and Wicked Leadership (29:4–8)

Verse 4 — Justice establishes a nation: A king strengthens a nation through justice but weakens it through corruption.

Verse 5 — Flattery is a trap: Excessive praise can become a snare to another person's steps.

Verse 6 — Sin ensnares: Evil deeds trap the wicked, while the righteous can rejoice.

Verse 7 — The righteous care about justice: A righteous person considers the cause of the poor.

Verse 8 — Wise people turn away anger: Mockers stir up a city, but the wise turn away wrath.

*Godly leadership pursues justice, protects the vulnerable, and promotes peace.

III. Wisdom in Relationships and Conflict (29:9–14)

Verse 9 — Avoid pointless conflict: A wise person dealing with a fool often encounters anger, ridicule, and no resolution.

Verse 10 — The righteous value life: Those who desire bloodshed hate the blameless, but the upright seek to preserve their lives.

Verse 11 — Practice self-control: A fool expresses all his feelings, but a wise person holds them back.

Verse 12 — Leaders influence others: When a ruler listens to lies, those serving him become wicked.

Verse 13 — God gives light to all: The poor and the oppressor share a common dependence on the Lord, who gives sight to both.

Verse 14 — Justice establishes a throne: A ruler who faithfully judges the poor establishes his leadership.

*Wisdom governs our emotions, relationships, and decisions, especially when dealing with difficult people.

IV. Correction, Discipline, and Parenting (29:15–17)

Verse 15 — Correction produces wisdom: Discipline and reproof help a child develop wisdom.

Verse 16 — Wickedness will not prevail forever: As wicked people increase, transgression increases, but the righteous will witness their downfall.

Verse 17 — Discipline brings peace: Proper correction brings rest and delight to parents.

*Loving discipline is not about controlling people; it is about helping them grow in wisdom and righteousness.

V. Humility, Self-Control, and Spiritual Vision (29:18–21)

Verse 18 — The need for God's revelation: Without prophetic vision, people cast off restraint; those who keep God's law are blessed.

Verse 19 — Words alone may not correct behavior: A servant may not respond to words alone, even when he understands.

Verse 20 — Think before speaking: A person who is hasty with words has less hope of correction than a fool.

Verse 21 — Be careful how you treat others: Giving a servant excessive indulgence can lead to trouble in the relationship.

*God's Word provides direction, while humility and disciplined speech help us live wisely.

VI. Pride, Anger, and the Fear of Man (29:22–27)

Verse 22 — Anger produces conflict: An angry person stirs up strife and commits many transgressions.

Verse 23 — Pride leads to humiliation: A person's pride brings him low, but humility brings honor.

Verse 24 — Compromise with evil is destructive: Sharing in wrongdoing brings guilt and danger, even when a person tries to conceal the truth.

Verse 25 — Fear of people is a trap: Trusting the Lord brings security.

Verse 26 — The Lord determines justice: Many seek favor from rulers, but true justice comes from the Lord.

Verse 27 — Righteousness and wickedness are opposed: The unjust person is an abomination to the righteous, and the upright person is an abomination to the wicked.

*Freedom from the fear of people comes through trusting God, walking in humility, and pursuing righteousness.