

Proverbs 17

Wisdom in Relationships, Speech, and Character

I. The Value of Peace and Godly Relationships (vv. 1–9)

A. Peace is better than abundance with conflict (v.1)

- A dry crust with peace is better than a feast with strife.
- God values peace in the home more than outward prosperity.

B. God tests and refines hearts (v.3)

- Silver and gold are refined by fire.
- The Lord examines motives and character. (*Ps. 139:23-24*)

C. Mercy strengthens relationships (vv.5, 9)

- Mocking the poor dishonors God.
- Love covers offenses; repeating matters divides friends.

D. Family is a gift from God (v.6)

- Grandchildren are a crown to their grandparents.
- Parents are the glory of children.

II. Wisdom Versus Foolishness (vv. 10–16)

A. Wise people receive correction (v.10)

- Rebuke reaches a wise person deeply.
- Foolish people resist instruction.

B. Fools create destruction (vv.11–12)

- Rebellion leads to judgment.
- It is safer to meet a bear robbed of cubs than a fool in foolishness.

C. Returning evil for good brings trouble (v.13)

- Evil responses invite lasting conflict.

D. Wisdom is worthless if not pursued sincerely (v.16)

- A fool may have money for wisdom but no heart to gain it.

III. Friendship, Loyalty, and Character (vv. 17–22)

A. True friends remain faithful (v.17)

- A friend loves at all times.
- Brothers are born for adversity.

B. Avoid careless commitments (v.18)

- Wisdom avoids reckless financial promises.

C. Pride invites destruction (v.19)

- Loving strife and exalting oneself lead to downfall.

D. Joy and encouragement bring strength (v.22)

- A merry heart is like medicine.
- A broken spirit weakens a person.

IV. The Danger of Wickedness and Foolish Speech (vv. 23–28)

A. Corruption perverts justice (v.23)

- Bribery twists righteousness.

B. Fools lack focus on wisdom (v.24)

- Wisdom is before the discerning.
- Fools chase empty distractions.

C. Foolish living brings grief (v.25)

- Foolish children bring sorrow to parents.

D. Wise people control their words (vv.27–28)

- Knowledge restrains speech.
- Even a fool appears wise when silent.

*Wisdom is revealed not merely by knowledge, but by how we speak, handle conflict, treat others, and maintain faithful relationships. Proverbs 17 teaches that godly character produces peace, stability, and life.