

# MORAL MAXIMS -3

## Proverbs 27

*“Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.” Daniel 6:3*

If you want to acquire excellent spirit (exceptional qualities) and a place of respect in the society where you live, work and worship, there are various virtues and observations that can impart beneficial knowledge into anyone willing to learn in Proverbs and Ecclesiastes.

### **DO NOT BOAST**

Verses 1 & 21. Never boast about anything, let alone about what lies ahead of you. Even when you have great accomplishments like that of David, be modest. 1 Samuel 18:7- ‘As they danced, they sang: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands.”'

This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD. Jeremiah 9:23-24.

When making plans for the future, “Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.”- Psalm 37:5

### **LET OTHERS PRAISE YOU**

Verse 2. Similar to verse 1, the scriptures warn that we must (...not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.) Galatians 5:26. See also Proverbs 25:27 and 2 Corinthians 10:10-18.

### **CONTROL YOUR ANGER**

Verse 3. Because a fool is someone who lacks essential qualities in sense, when angry, he or she loses control. If you cannot control your anger, you are like a city without wall; open to attack- Proverbs 25:28

### **JEALOUSY**

Verse 4. One of the acts of the sinful nature is jealousy (Galatians 5:19-20). If you are jealous of others, you are not spiritual. Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 and 1 Samuel 18:8 – ‘Saul was very angry; this refrain galled him. "They have credited David with tens of thousands," he thought, "but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?'"

### **STOP FLATTERING**

Verses 5 and 9. It is better to say the truth openly than to conceal one’s true feeling or intention. Read Proverbs 28:23 and Psalm 12:3.

### **DON'T BE DEVIOUS; DON'T BE A BETRAYER**

Verse 6. When rightly corrected or advised by a friend, take it on board. ... With a deceitful kiss, Judas pointed Christ to the enemy. Read Psalm 141:5, Matthew 19:16-22 and Mark 14:44-46.

## **GIVE IN SECRET**

Verse 14. "Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven ..." Matthew 6:1-4.

## **NO CHOICE FOR A BEGGAR!**

Verse 7. When the Prodigal son spent all that he had, for lack of food, he ate the leftovers of the swine (Luke 15:16) ... and when you are full, you will refuse even something as sweet as honey.

## **BE FOCUSED**

Verse 8. Do not wander about without a destination or purpose.

1 Timothy 5:13 - "Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to."

And "If a man is lazy, the rafters sag; if his hands are idle, the house leaks."- Ecclesiastes 10:18

## **DO NOT FORSAKE FRIENDSHIP**

Verse 10. Since there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother (Proverbs 18:24), do not forsake your friends.

## **ON WISDOM**

A wise son will make his father proud – verse 11

Verse 12. Wisdom gives life: (A prudent man is one who is wise in handling practical matters; exercising good judgment or common sense). Read Ecclesiastes 7:12

Verse 13. Don't be a surety for a stranger, if he or she defaults, where will you find him or her. It is stupidity.

## **WOMEN, AVOID NAGGING**

Verses 15-16. A constant dripping on a rainy day will definitely halt or disturb some activities on such a day ...

With a nagging wife, you will get the same and she cannot be contained. Listen to this: "Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife." Proverbs 25:24.

## **ASSOCIATE WITH WISE PEOPLE**

Verse 17. Wise people amongst other things possess knowledge and discretion (Proverbs 8:12), hanging around such people can make you understand things better.

## **YOUR DEEDS WILL BE REWARDED**

Verse 18. Men's deed will not go unrewarded. Jeremiah 17:10 - "I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve."

## **A MAN'S HEART REFLECTS HIM**

Verse 19. Since out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks (Matthew 12:35)

## **THE MORE THINGS YOU ACQUIRE, THE LESS YOU ARE SATISFIED** - verse 20

Read Ecclesiastes 2:4-10

## **BE THRIFTY**

Verses 23-27. Give careful attention to your business; know your stock and the state of your finance. Why is stocktaking necessary? To know the accurate value of the stock held in a business.