

MORAL MAXIMS -1

Proverbs 25

No country's constitution will teach you moral excellence, but you will find in it the principles on which a nation is governed. But the bible contains commandments, ordinances and laws that will help us live peaceably with our neighbours. In the bible you will also find observations and ways to behave that will constitute moral excellence. Various virtues can be found in Proverbs and Ecclesiastes.

God's intentions are unsearchable - Verses 2-3: Secret things belong to God. The things we do not know are to the glory of God. So also, the hearts of kings are unsearchable. Kings always have several advisers. Proverbs 11:14 - Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.

Daniel 2:22 - He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

Deuteronomy 29:29- "The secret things belong to the LORD our God; but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law."

Prepare yourself for the Master's use –Verse 4: Dross (the scum that forms on the surface of molten metal as a result of oxidation) once removed, it brings out the shining qualities of a metal. Be a vessel unto honour – 2 Timothy 2:19-21.

By moral uprightness, a king's throne will be established. Complementing this is Proverbs 16:12

Don't go and seat in high places first, wait to be called to take a seat – 6-7. See Luke 14:8-11

Don't go to court hastily – Verse 8-10: Proverbs 11:13 - A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret.

Carefully choose your words - Verse 11 - A man finds joy in giving an apt reply, and how good is a timely word! Proverbs 15:23

Comparisons / Observations: Verses 12-14, 18-20 and 26. Verse 18: Like a club or a sword or a sharp arrow is the man who gives false testimony against his neighbour. The Lord hates it (Proverbs 6:16).

Proverbs 19:5 - A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall not escape. See also Proverbs 14:5

Verse 19: Like a bad tooth or a lame foot is reliance on the unfaithful in times of trouble. Simply put your trust in God.

Soft words and patience recommended to get results - Verse 15- Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone. See also Proverbs 15:1.

Exercise self-control –Verse 16: If you find honey, eat just enough- too much of it, and you will vomit.

Verse 28 - Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control. That is, do everything in moderation.

Don't visit a neighbour frequently, you may lose value -Verse 17: Seldom set foot in your neighbour's house- too much of you, and he will hate you.

Do not repay evil for evil – Verses 21-22. See also Romans 12:17-21.

Avoid domestic quarrel (especially women) - Verse 24: Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife. A wise woman will build her own house.