
Proverbs
Seek Wisdom
Find Life



Proverbs on Neighbors

Including Proverbs:

3:28-29 • 6:1-3, 27-35 • 11:9,12-13
12:26 • 14:20-21 • 16:29
17:18 • 18:1, 17 • 21:10
22:28 • 24:28 • 25:8-9, 17-18
26:18-19

DO YOU KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS?



WHAT DO YOUR NEIGHBORS KNOW ABOUT YOU?



WHAT DO YOU SAY ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORS?



DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR NEIGHBORS SAY ABOUT YOU?



WHAT DO YOUR NEIGHBORS BELIEVE ABOUT BEING A NEIGHBOR?



HERE'S WHAT SOME OF
MY NEIGHBORS
BELIEVE ABOUT
BEING A NEIGHBOR.



"physically **close**" is not the same thing as "*truly* … invested"

"loving your neighbor" requires **honesty** about **needs or limits**



“But if the [person] who blasts [their] radio while [person] pulls down **our** alley hears this sermon, I hope [person]'ll get the message that **common** courtesy is always appreciated.”



“your neighbor is . . . **everyone**.”

“**practice** by **plan**ning and **intentionally do**ing for one what you would wish to do for all.
Oh, and repeat that second thing an infinite number of times.”



"... knowing if I ever really **needed** something, I could turn to a neighbor"

"**kids** playing together and growing up with that sense of **community**"

"just **the comfort of knowing someone is there**—even if we don't talk every day."



“if possible, to really try to build a **trusting** relationship . . . they are the people that are constantly right next to you”

“a sense of trust in your **community** is important to . . . home”



HERE'S WHAT
Proverbs SAYS ABOUT IT.



An Outline of Neighborly Proverbs

- **Community**, a shared nearness, is God's most basic model
- Know one another
- Safety: theirs with you
- Boundaries: some things are sacred
- Talk should be honest and loving
- Needs are paramount



COMMUNITY



Context: COMMUNITY

- The only creation story built on community
- Ancient Israel were a display for the nations
- Judaism was known for taking care of its own
- Jesus took it beyond the border, to the nations



Context: COMMUNITY (cont'd)

- Israel still lacked cultural structure
- God often was claimed transactionally
- Law/Wisdom: one person affects the other
- Layered structure came from ideas of holiness
- The goal was not just compliance, but goodness



An Outline of Neighborly Proverbs

✅ **Community**, a shared nearness, is God's most basic model

- Know one another
- Safety: theirs with you
- Boundaries: some things are sacred
- Talk should be honest and loving
- Needs are paramount



KNOW AND BE KNOWN



Know and Be Known

Cautionary verses first!

The first to plead his case seems right,
Until [his neighbor] comes and examines him.

- *Proverb 18:17*



Know and Be Known: Cautionary (cont'd)

Do not go out hastily to argue your case;
Otherwise, what will you do in the end,
When your neighbor humiliates you?

- *Proverb 25:8*



Know and Be Known: Why?

…Why?
Being “watched” sounds like all downside.
I’d rather hide.

*Sartre: an “other” person seeing me **restricts me***
*Levinas: the “other” person is infinitely **valuable***
*Keller, K.: an “other” equal dignifies **you***



Know and Be Known: The Upside

He who separates himself seeks his own desire,
He quarrels against all sound wisdom.

- *Proverb 18:1*

It is wise and good to be known!



Know and Be Known: The Upside (cont'd)

The righteous is a guide to his neighbor, But the way of the wicked leads them astray.

- *Proverb 12:26*

Others knowing us can be key!



An Outline of Neighborly Proverbs

- ✅ **Community**, a shared nearness, is God's most basic model
- ✅ **Know** one another
- Safety: theirs with you
- Boundaries: some things are sacred
- Talk should be honest and loving
- Needs are paramount



SAFETY



Safety

He who despises his neighbor lacks sense,
But a man of understanding keeps silent.

- *Proverb 11:12*

Do not complain. Be understanding.



Safety

Do not devise harm against your neighbor,
While he lives securely beside you.

- *Proverb 3:29*

Let people be safe with you!



Safety

A man of violence entices his neighbor
And leads him in a way that is not good.

- *Proverb 16:29*

Fall in with none unsafe for others.



An Outline of Neighborly Proverbs

- ✅ **Community**, a shared nearness, is God's most basic model
- ✅ **Know** one another
- ✅ **Safety**: theirs with you
- Boundaries: some things are sacred
- Talk should be honest and loving
- Needs are paramount



BOUNDARIES



Boundaries: Familiarity

Let your foot rarely be in your neighbor's house,
Or he will become weary of you and hate you.

- *Proverb 25:7*

Do not abuse anyone's hospitality.



*Meaning of **embroil** in English*

embroil

verb [T]

US /ɪmˈbrɔɪl/ UK /ɪmˈbrɔɪl/

Add to word list

to cause someone to become involved in an argument or a difficult situation:

- **embroil yourself in something** *She had no desire to embroil herself in lengthy lawsuits with the tabloid newspapers.*
- **get someone/something embroiled in something** *The United Nations was reluctant to get its forces embroiled in civil war.*

Synonym

drag someone into something

Boundaries: Embroiled

A man lacking in sense pledges

And becomes guarantor in the presence of his neighbor.

- *Proverb 17:18*



Boundaries: Embroiled

My son, if you have become surety for your neighbor,
Have given a pledge for a stranger,
If you have been snared with the words of your mouth,
Have been caught with the words of your mouth,
Do this then, my son, and deliver yourself;
Since you have come into the hand of your neighbor,
Go, humble yourself, and importune your neighbor.

- *Proverb 6:1-3*



Boundaries: Taking

Do not move the ancient boundary
Which your fathers have set.

- *Proverb 22:28*



Boundaries: Violate

Can anyone take fire in his lap
And his clothes not be burned?
Or can a person walk on hot coals
And his feet not be scorched?
So is the one who goes in to his neighbor's wife;
Whoever touches her will not go unpunished.

- *Proverb 6:27-29*



Boundaries: Violate

(If you steal from your neighbor,
you may be made to repay seven times over, but
you can repay.

If you "go in" to someone who is not your spouse,
you cannot.)

- *Proverbs 6:30-35*
(my paraphrase)



An Outline of Neighborly Proverbs

- ✅ **Community**, a shared nearness, is God's most basic model
- ✅ **Know** one another
- ✅ **Safety**: theirs with you
- ✅ Boundaries: some things are sacred
- **Talk** should be honest and loving
- Needs are paramount



TALK



Talk: Lying about a Neighbor

Do not be a witness against your neighbor
without cause,
And do not deceive with your lips.

- *Proverb 24:28*

Note: 28a seems to include truth



Talk: Lying about a Neighbor (cont'd)

Like a club and a sword and a sharp arrow
Is a man who bears false witness against his neighbor.

- *Proverb 25:18*

Do you wish violence in your neighborhood?



Talk: Lying to a Neighbor

Like a madman who throws
Firebrands, arrows and death,
So is the man who deceives his neighbor,
And says, “Was I not joking?”

- *Proverbs 26:18-19*



gossip

noun

US /ˈgɑː.səp/ UK /ˈgɒs.ɪp/

Add to word list

B2 [S or U]

conversation or reports about other people's private lives that might be unkind, disapproving, or not true:

- *Her letter was full of gossip.*
- **idle gossip** *I don't like all this idle gossip.*
- **juicy gossip** *I have some juicy gossip for you.*
- **the (latest) gossip** *Have you heard the (latest) gossip?*

Talk: Gossip about a Neighbor

He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets,
But he who is trustworthy conceals a matter.

- *Proverb 11:13*



Talk: Gossip about a Neighbor (cont'd)

With his mouth the godless man destroys his neighbor,

But through knowledge the righteous [neighbor] will be delivered.

- *Proverb 11:9*
  [Addition mine.]



Talk: Gossip about a Neighbor (cont'd)

Argue your case with your neighbor,
And do not reveal the secret of another,
Or he who hears it will reproach you,
And the evil report about you will not pass away.

- *Proverb 25:9*



An Outline of Neighborly Proverbs

- ✅ **Community**, a shared nearness, is God's most basic model
- ✅ **Know** one another
- ✅ **Safety**: theirs with you
- ✅ Boundaries: some things are sacred
- ✅ **Talk** should be honest and loving
- Needs are paramount



NEED



Need: Withholding

Do not say to your neighbor, “Go, and come back,
And tomorrow I will give it,”
When you have it with you.

- *Proverb 3:28*



Need: Scorn

The poor is hated even by his neighbor,
But those who love the rich are many.
He who despises his neighbor sins,
But happy is he who is gracious to the poor.

- *Proverb 14:20-21*



Need: Scorn (cont'd)

The soul of the wicked desires evil;
His neighbor finds no favor in his eyes.

- *Proverb 21:10*



YOUR NEIGHBOR, GOD



God is the model neighbor. *(Slide 1)*

- **Community** (trinity)
  the "Other" becomes intimate: home
- Know (omniscience)
  His knowing us so well is freeing
- Safety (security and assurance)
  God wills his own well, and prevails



God is the model neighbor. *(Slide 2)*

- Boundaries (holiness)
  He wants you within his boundaries
- Talk (Λόγος)
  God cannot lie. His Word creates you.
- Needs (יְהוָה | יִרְאֶה)
  God gives super-abundantly.





- Commune: pray: thank & ask; plan, practice, intentionally do
- Know: Say hi! Ask questions. Share.
- Be safe: pray to help to love mercy, do justly, make peace
- Boundaries: Maintain them; Don’t push them
- Talk: Restrain your tongue: is it knowing, honest, loving?
- Meet needs: look for ways to help, offer, do.