

Dangers to Avoid
Proverbs 6:1-19

Be wise about financial commitments and be diligent to work for what you need (1-11).

- *Financial entanglements can cause problems with neighbors and strangers alike (1-3).*
- *Laziness leads to financial ruin (4-11).*

Solomon's advice to his son is practical and simple to see and experience in life. His encouragement is important: Be wise! Solomon wanted his son to use wisdom in two key ways in his life. First, he warned his son of the dangers of financial commitments with people he knows and those he doesn't know. Both can lead to serious problems and can put you not only in a relational bind but also in a financial bind. In verse 5, Solomon equated it to gazelle fleeing a hunter and a bird escaping the hand of a fowler. The implication is don't do it, but the advice is do whatever you can to escape from it if you find yourself caught in a dangerous financial entanglement. Second, he warned his son of the dangers of laziness. Pointing to the instinct of an ant with the brain the size of a grain of sand, Solomon exhorted his son to work diligently and faithfully, reminding him that laziness leads to financial ruin. Today as in Solomon's day, be wise about financial entanglements and be diligent to work for what you need.

1. Have you ever experienced the truth of this warning related to financial entanglements with neighbors (those you know) or with strangers (those you don't know)? Share, and discuss why these entanglements are dangerous.
2. Why does God's Word use the illustrations of a gazelle and bird escaping to encourage us to do whatever we can to get free from these entanglements? How can we do this wisely?
3. Have you ever seen the evidence of the truth of Solomon's warning about laziness and financial ruin? Share, and discuss why this is typically true?
4. If you were counseling someone who is exhibiting laziness, how would you instruct them and encourage them to deal with their problem in a way that's biblically faithful and honors the Lord? Take a moment to pray for yourselves to be diligent for the glory of God in your lives!

From head to toe, the signs of a wicked heart can be seen (12-15).

- *Deceptive (12a).*
- *Exploitative (13).*
- *Wicked (14a).*
- *Divisive (14b).*

Solomon pointed to the heart issues and the outflow of actions in the life of a wicked man. The signs of a wicked heart can be seen; although, it is often disguised and hidden at first from the trusting eyes of many. Wickedness thrives on deception. Twisting words and empty promises are common tactics in order to manipulate victims into trust, acceptance, and compliance. The deception is targeted at exploitation. It's the wink of the eye and the point with the finger that misdirects and takes advantage of the easy mark. Deception and exploitation come from a perverted heart. That's wickedness in the sinful soul! The overflow of the wicked heart is wicked action, and that often utilizes divisiveness to manipulate and to control. Solomon warned his son that in the end, the wicked will come to destruction. This is eternally true whether it's witnessed by others in this life or not. From head to toe, the signs of a wicked heart can be seen. So be wise to see and flee!



1. What is deceptiveness ? How have you been deceived by others? How have you tried to deceive others? Why is deceptiveness sin? How does it fall short of the glory of God?
2. What is exploitativeness? How have you been exploited by others? How have you tried to exploit others? Why is exploitation sin? How does it fall short of the glory of God?
3. What is wickedness? How have you been affected by the wickedness of others? How have you seen wickedness in your own heart? How does it fall short of the glory of God?
4. What is divisiveness? How have you been affected by the divisiveness of others? How have you contributed to divisiveness yourself? How does it fall short of the glory of God?

From head to toe, know the things the Lord hates (16-19).

- *Haughtiness (17a).*
- *Deceptiveness (17b).*
- *Violence (17c).*
- *Wicked motives (18a).*
- *Evil actions (18b).*
- *False witnesses (19a).*
- *Divisiveness (19b).*

Solomon now gives a better reason – a more important reason – for knowing and fleeing wickedness in this world, and that reason is that the Lord hates these wicked things! Solomon rehashes the characteristics he just pointed to, emphasizing that these are the very things that the Lord God despises. In addition to deceptiveness, wickedness, divisiveness, etc. that Solomon had just mentioned, he adds to the list several other things that the Lord hates haughtiness, violence, and a false witness. What does this mean? It means that the Lord cannot stand sin. When a person raises themselves up above the others – and especially above the Lord, he despises the haughtiness of the sinful heart. When a person is not honest, speaking the truth and bearing true and faithful witness about others, the Lord hates the deception and false witness of the sinful heart. When a person sheds innocent blood and pursues wicked and evil plans, the Lord despises the violence and wickedness of the sinful heart. When a person sows discord that creates division, the Lord hates the divisiveness of the sinful heart. What a gift of wisdom the Lord gives us in these verses! From head to toe, know the things the Lord hates so that by his grace we can grow in the things he loves as we live by faith and love in him!

1. Use the BlueLetterBible app to do word studies in verse 16 on the words “hate” and “abomination.” Discuss what these words mean in relationship to how the Lord feels about the things that follow in verses 17-19.
2. Today, many even in the church discount the seriousness of sin. Some emphasize God’s love and forgiveness, diminishing the reality of how God feels about sin. It’s often said that “God accepts you just as you are,” but this is an incomplete statement that’s often used to justify sin. God will save you just as you are, but he doesn’t accept your sin: His Son died for your sin because of the seriousness of the sin he hates! The old hymn “Just As I Am” words it well. We come to him without a plea. We come to him as guilty sinners, you and me. We come to him only by faith to be saved by his grace. We come as sinners to become his saints! Do you see sin the way the Lord does? Discuss. Confess, and pray!