

The Way of The World
Proverbs 11:14-31
Berean Baptist Church
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Be wise by seeing beyond the obvious and discern the law of sowing and reaping!

Proverbs 11:14-15 Listen, But Don't Buy Everything You Hear

Vs 14 speaks to the safety that comes from many counselors. But **Vs 15** speaks to the pain that comes from following bad advice; guaranteeing the debt of a stranger.

Someone you don't know, who does not share the same values as you, might give you good sounding advice to go into business with him and co-sign some of his debt. You could listen to his sales pitch and say “multitude of counsellors...” and so go into debt with him, and it will probably come back to bite you!

Listen to everyone but don't assume that all advice is good!

Proverbs 11:16-21 Simple Cause and Effect

Vs 16 One who gives gifts (gracious) naturally finds glory (honor, splendor, dignity), one who is powerful naturally receives wealth. This is a simple cause and effect relationship, and by itself not good or bad. From this starting point, the Doctrine of Life proceeds to other more interesting cause and effect relationships...

Vs 17 One who shows mercy is naturally strengthened, one who loves to cause pain naturally suffers.

Vs 18 One who does evil naturally earns a disappointing reward. The deceitful work is deceitful to the one who does it. But one who does good naturally earns a fulfilling reward.

Vs 19 The righteous naturally find life, the wicked naturally find death.

Why does the world work this way? Why are these things true? Vs 20-21 “They that are of a froward heart are abomination to the LORD: but such as are upright in their way are his delight (Proverbs 11:20).” God personally enjoys people with integrity and is personally offended by the evil.

Vs 21 And no amount of cunning or cooperation will deliver the evil or destroy the righteous.

Do not be deceived! Know that right living causes good living, and evil living causes miserable living!

Proverbs 11:22 Look, But Don't Buy Everything You See

“discretion” is good judgment or understanding. Beauty without wisdom is only as good as a gold ring on a pig. Just as in Proverbs 11:14-15, we are warned to not be superficial in our judgments.

Look past outward beauty to see the true person!

Proverbs 11:23-31 Deeper Cause and Effect

After the second warning to be thoughtful (Vs 22), we find the second set of causes and effect connections. Some of the connections are obvious, some are profound spiritual truths that fly in the

face of worldly wisdom.

Vs 23 The path of righteousness ends in good, wickedness ends in wrath. We have seen this before, but what follows is surprising.

Vs 24-26 The path to real wealth is not stinginess but generosity (Vs 24). This is true physically because generosity helps build relationships that are more valuable than money in the bank (Vs 26).

But this is also true spirituality because generosity brings us closer to God. This is soul-thrilling, life-changing theology: our God is not a stingy God, our God is a God of gifts!

“He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again (Prov 19:17).”

“Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift (2Co 9:15).”

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God (Eph 2:8):”

“But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ (Eph 4:7).”

“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again (Luke 6:38).”

No Christian (or local church) has ever really grown by being selfish. The flesh tells us to circle the wagons, hoard our resources, and take care of ourselves. But the law of sowing and reaping says:

If you want to grow, then give! If you want to be blessed, then be a blessing! If you want to receive good, then do good! If you want to be loved, then love! If you want to have friends, then be friendly! If you want to grow in grace, then show grace!

Proverbs 11:27-30 Example Of Deeper Cause And Effect

Vs 27 Seek the good of others and you sow blessings for yourself, sow evil for others and you will reap it for yourself.

Vs 28 “fail...flourish” hoard your money that could be used to do others good, and you will fail like a bad harvest. Do right with what God has given you and you will get yet more like a flourishing tree.

Vs 29 harm those close to you and you will inherit nothing.

Vs 30 Do right and you will grow. "Wineth souls" the context of this passage shows that the idea is "building relationships" or "making friends." The wise person uses their God-given wealth and resources to bless others and build relationships that are far more valuable than money.

Why does the world work this way? Why are these things true? "Vs 31 Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner.” Because God repays!

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