

2/21/2021

Proverbs Series

Pastor Ken Sistrunk

### **Integrity Matters**

**Proverbs 6:1-15** <sup>1</sup>My son, if you have put up security for your neighbor, if you have struck hands in pledge with a stranger, <sup>2</sup>if you have been trapped by the words of your lips, ensnared by the words of your mouth, <sup>3</sup>then do this, my son, to free yourself, for you have fallen into your neighbor's hands: Go, humble yourself, and press your plea with your neighbor. <sup>4</sup>Allow no sleep to your eyes or slumber to your eyelids. <sup>5</sup>Free yourself, like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, like a bird from the snare of the fowler. <sup>6</sup>Walk in the manner of the ant, O slacker; observe its ways and become wise. <sup>7</sup>Without a commander, without an overseer or ruler, <sup>8</sup>it prepares its provisions in summer; it gathers its food at harvest. <sup>9</sup>How long will you lie there, O slacker? When will you get up from your sleep? <sup>10</sup>A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, <sup>11</sup>and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and need like a bandit. <sup>12</sup>A worthless person, a wicked man, walks with a perverse mouth, <sup>13</sup>winking his eyes, speaking with his feet, and pointing with his fingers. <sup>14</sup>With deceit in his heart he devises evil; he continually sows discord. <sup>15</sup>Therefore calamity will come upon him suddenly; in an instant he will be shattered beyond recovery. (BSB)

I. Here are the details of this passage.

- A. The wise father is advising his son on how to get out of **unwise** commitments that he has made. V.1
- B. The solution involves humility, communication and a commitment to becoming **debt free**. V. 3-5
- C. The wise father then advises the son to adapt a strong **work ethic**. V.6
- D. The advice is for the son to learn to take responsibility for his own **provision**. V. 6-11 Here are the main points of the advice:

\***Self motivation**

\***Hard work**

\***No excuses**

\***Discipline**

- E. The wise father then advises the son to guard his **character**. V. 12-15 The main advice deals with these points:

\***Sexual purity** in word and deed

\***Truth speaking**

\***Peacemaking**

II. What can we learn from this?

- A. It is God's will for us to strive to be debt free and not held in **bondage** to past poor decisions.

**Romans 13:8** Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. (NIV)

**Hebrews 12:14** Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. (NIV)

- B. We are still held **responsible** by God to pay our debts, our taxes, and our obligations that we have committed to.
- C. It is God's will that each of us carry our own **loads** and to have a surplus in order to help others with their burdens.
- D. It is God's will that physically healthy **believers** be able to carry their own load.
  - 1. It is God's will that we stop blaming others for our past mistakes and to take full responsibility for our own actions.
  - 2. The Bible makes it clear that a believer, who is healthy, develop skills to excel at work.
  - 3. We must never make excuses for our sinful behavior.
  - 4. God's people must develop spiritual discipline, ethical discipline, and financial discipline.
- E. We must be people of **integrity**, even when no one is watching. This involves our sexual appetites, every word we speak, and making peace with those around us.