



Navigating Life's Conflict (*The 30 Sayings of the Wise*)

Listen. Learn. Lean. That's Solomon's advice for applying *The 30 Sayings of the Wise* to our conflict. *Listen* to the sayings by opening our hearts (Proverbs 22:17). *Learn* these 30 wise words so that we can recall and speak them when conflict arises (Proverbs 22:17-18). *Lean* on God, not ourselves or the sayings (Proverbs 22:19). If we *listen*, *learn*, and *lean* on God, then we will have knowledge, good advice, truth, and answers for our challenges, moving us through life's conflict toward community (Proverbs 22:20-21).

Join us on a journey through wisdom's chartered waters as we examine thirty navigational beacons to help us travel safely through life's seven seas: (1) finances, (2) friends, (3) faith, (4) failure, (5) family, (6) fools, and (7) future.

Finances

We are called by God to wisely steward our capital resources. *The 30 Sayings of the Wise* surfaces five pearls to help us navigate through life's financial conflict. Left unchecked, this handful of gems can become a quintuplet of anchors that will drown us in a sea of debt. Solomon's selections address litigation, debt, integrity, wealth, and the poor.

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| Saying 1: | Poverty Police | (Proverbs 22:22-23) |
| Saying 3: | Borrow Barrier | (Proverbs 22:26-27) |
| Saying 4: | Sanctified Survey | (Proverbs 22:28) |
| Saying 7: | Riches to Rags | (Proverbs 23:4-5) |
| Saying 10: | Lawful Landmarks | (Proverbs 23:10-11) |



Friends

It has been said that the most influential people in our lives are our friends. Perhaps that's why *The 30 Sayings of the Wise* includes a description of four friends that we should avoid making: the hot-tempered, slothful, troublemaker, and rebellious.

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| Saying 2: | Anger Danger | (Proverbs 22:24-25) |
| Saying 15: | Slothful Man | (Proverbs 23:19-21) |
| Saying 19: | Bad Company | (Proverbs 24:1-2) |
| Saying 30: | Resist Rebels | (Proverbs 24:21-22) |

Faith

Wisdom applies our faith to our circumstances, literally sticking God's character to our challenges. *The 30 Sayings of the Wise* combines God's heart with street smarts addressing our: work ethic, self-control, speech, and motives as we connect our vertical commitment with our horizontal conflict.

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| Saying 5: | Hard Work Helps | (Proverbs 22:29) |
| Saying 6: | Bribe Tribe | (Proverbs 23:1-3) |
| Saying 13: | Common Sense Counts | (Proverbs 23:15-16) |
| Saying 25: | Warn the Unwary | (Proverbs 24:11-12) |

Failure

Failure might not be final, but ignored, it can be fatal. *The 30 Sayings of the Wise* describes four pitfalls that can kill: lies, sexual misconduct, addiction, and distress.

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| Saying 8: | Chameleon Complex | (Proverbs 23:6-8) |
| Saying 17: | Wayward Women | (Proverbs 23:26-28) |



Saying 18: Drunken Dodo (Proverbs 23:29-35)

Saying 24: Pressure Pusher (Proverbs 24:10)

Family

Family is the ultimate picture of God's love. The Apostle Paul teaches that family derives its name from the Father. In *The 30 Sayings of the Wise*, Solomon offers four pillars to construct a firm foundation for a God-honoring, loving home: learning, disciplining children, honoring parents, and building connections.

Saying 11: Receive Reproof (Proverbs 23:12)

Saying 12: Disciple Discipline (Proverbs 23:13-14)

Saying 16: Secret Agents (Proverbs 23:22-25)

Saying 20: Wise Enterprise (Proverbs 24:3-4)

Fools

The antithesis of a wise person is a fool. *The 30 Sayings of the Wise* includes five concepts that both prepare us for dealing with a fool and help us not to become one. They include: reasoning with a fool, instructing a fool, scheming, stealing, and gloating.

Saying 9: Wisdom Wasted (Proverbs 23:9)

Saying 22: Rebel Rascals (Proverbs 24:7)

Saying 23: Slippery Schemer (Proverbs 24:8-9)

Saying 27: Bounce Back (Proverbs 24:15-16)

Saying 28: Weep Over Others' Woes (Proverbs 24:17-18)

Future



Everybody desires hope, a confident assurance regarding the future. That hope comes exclusively from God. *The 30 Sayings of the Wise* offers four practical ways for us to experience God's hope on this side of heaven: don't envy sinful people, seek wise counsel, get wisdom—fuel for the soul, and don't worry about the wicked.

Saying 14: Envy Evil Error (Proverbs 23:17-18)

Saying 21: Wise Words Win Wars (Proverbs 24:5-6)

Saying 26: Sweet Success (Proverbs 24:13-14)

Saying 29: Wicked Worry (Proverbs 24:19-20)

Conclusion

When we listen, learn, and lean on God, He equips us with wisdom to navigate through conflict to community.