

The Book of Proverbs

Chapter 23

Things to Avoid in Life

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Proverbs 23:1

(Pro 23:1 ISV*) ¶ Whenever you sit down to dine with a ruler, carefully think about what is before you.

(Pro 23:1 KJV+) When^{H3588} thou sittest^{H3427} to eat^{H3898} with^{H854} a ruler,^{H4910} consider diligently^{H995 H995 (H853)} what^{H834} is before^{H6440} thee:

(Pro 23:1 NASB) When you sit down to dine with a ruler, Consider carefully what is before you,

(Pro 23:1 NIV) When you sit to dine with a ruler, note well what is before you,

[When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before thee] When you are invited to eat with an authority, act and eat moderately (*Prov 23:1-3*).

[thou sittest] All of *Prov 23:1-24* is written in the second person.

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Proverbs 23:1

(Pro 23:1 NASB) When you sit down to dine with a ruler, Consider carefully what is before you,

Five commands to sons:

1. Consider who is before you and act accordingly. When it is the ruler, your blessing is that of honor instead of feasting (*Prov 23:1*)
2. Put a knife to your throat — do not be a glutton; subdue your own appetite and thus make a favorable impression (*Prov 23:2*)
3. Do not lust after the king's delicacies or appear as if you are not accustomed to such food (*Prov 23:3*)
4. Labor not to be rich, for riches take wings and fly away (*Prov 23:4-5*). Concentrate on eternal things
5. Cease from your own wisdom; that is, the kind which makes riches the chief end in life (*Prov 23:4-5*)

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Proverbs 23:2

(Pro 23:2 ISV*) ¶ Put a knife to your own throat, if you have a big appetite. [Lit. a master of an appetite]

(Pro 23:2 KJV+) And put^{H7760} a knife^{H7915} to thy throat,^{H3930} if^{H518} thou^{H859} be a man^{H1167} given to appetite.^{H5315}

(Pro 23:2 NASB) And put a knife to your throat If you are a man of *great* appetite.

(Pro 23:2 NIV) and put a knife to your throat if you are given to gluttony.

Five examples of men given to appetites:

1. Esau (Gen 25:30)
2. Isaac (Gen 25:28; 27:4)
3. Nabal (1 Sam 25:36)
4. Belshazzar (Dan 5)
5. False teachers (Phil 3:18-19)

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Proverbs 23:3

(Pro 23:3 ISV*) ¶ Don't crave his delicacies, because the meal is deceptive.

(Pro 23:3 KJV+) Be not^{H408} desirous^{H183} of his dainties:^{H4303} for they^{H1931} are deceitful^{H3577} meat.^{H3899}

(Pro 23:3 NASB) Do not desire his delicacies, For it is deceptive food.

(Pro 23:3 NIV) Do not crave his delicacies, for that food is deceptive.

Proverbs 23:4

(Pro 23:4 ISV*) ¶ Don't exhaust yourself acquiring wealth; be smart enough to stop.

(Pro 23:4 KJV+) Labour^{H3021} not^{H408} to be rich:^{H6238} cease^{H2308} from^{H4480} thine own wisdom.^{H998}

(Pro 23:4 NASB) Do not weary yourself to gain wealth, Cease from your consideration of it.

(Pro 23:4 NIV) Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint.

Three Examples of Laboring for Riches:

1. Lot (*Gen 13:10*)
2. The rich fool (*Luke 12:16-20*)
3. Rich men (*1 Tim 6:9-10; James 5:1-6*)

Two Things Not to Labor For:

1. To be rich only (*Prov 23:4*)
2. To have temporal food only (*John 6:27*)

Proverbs 23:4

(Pro 23:4 NASB) Do not weary yourself to gain wealth, Cease from your consideration of it.

Eight Things to Labor For:

1. Eternal food (*John 6:27*)
2. To help the poor (*Eph 4:28*)
3. To win lost souls (*Phil 2:16*)
4. To support the weak (*Acts 20:35*)
5. To perfect the saints (*Col 4:12; Eph 4:11-14; Gal 4:11; 1Th 5:12*)
6. Not to burden others (*1 Thess 2:9*)
7. To enter eternal rest (*Heb 4:1*)
8. To be accepted by God (*2 Cor 5:9*)

Proverbs 23:5

(Pro 23:5 ISV*) ¶ When you fix your gaze on it, it's gone, for it sprouts wings for itself and flies to the sky like an eagle.

(Pro 23:5 KJV+) Wilt thou set^{H5774} thine eyes^{H5869} upon that which is not?^{H369} for^{H3588} riches certainly make^{H6213} themselves wings;^{H3671} they fly away^{H5774} as an eagle^{H5404} toward heaven.^{H8064}

(Pro 23:5 NASB) When you set your eyes on it, it is gone. For wealth certainly makes itself wings Like an eagle that flies toward the heavens.

(Pro 23:5 NIV) Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.

[Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not?] Question 22. Next, *Prov 23:29*.

Do not make any temporary thing an objective of life.

Proverbs 23:6

(Pro 23:6 ISV*) ¶ Don't consume food provided by a miserly [Lit. by the evil eyed] person, and don't desire his delicacies,

(Pro 23:6 KJV+) Eat^{H3898} thou not^{H408 (H853)} the bread^{H3899} of him that hath an evil^{H7451} eye,^{H5869} neither^{H408} desire^{H183} thou his dainty meats:^{H4303}

(Pro 23:6 NASB) Do not eat the bread of a selfish man, Or desire his delicacies;

(Pro 23:6 NIV) Do not eat the food of a stingy man, do not crave his delicacies;

[Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats] Do not accept invitations to eat with a stingy man, for if he entertains you at his own expense he will begrudge every morsel you eat (**Prov 23:6-8**).

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Proverbs 23:7

(Pro 23:7 ISV*) ¶ for as he thinks within himself, so he is. "Eat and drink!" he'll say to you, but his heart won't be with you.

(Pro 23:7 KJV+) For^{H3588} as^{H3644} he thinketh^{H8176} in his heart,^{H5315} so^{H3651} is he:^{H1931} Eat^{H398} and drink,^{H8354} saith^{H559} he to thee; but his heart^{H3820} is not^{H1077} with thee.^{H5973}

(Pro 23:7 NASB) For as he thinks within himself, so he is. He says to you, "Eat and drink!" But his heart is not with you.

(Pro 23:7 NIV) for he is the kind of man who is always thinking about the cost. "Eat and drink," he says to you, but his heart is not with you.

The stingy man says to eat and drink, but he does not mean it from the heart. On reflection you will

See that you were not welcome and you will regret accepting his invitation.

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Proverbs 23:8

(Pro 23:8 ISV*) ¶ You'll vomit up what little you've eaten, and your compliments will have been wasted.

(Pro 23:8 KJV+) The morsel^{H6595} which thou hast eaten^{H398} shalt thou vomit up,^{H6958} and lose^{H7843} thy sweet^{H5273} words.^{H1697}

(Pro 23:8 NASB) You will vomit up the morsel you have eaten, And waste your compliments.

(Pro 23:8 NIV) You will vomit up the little you have eaten and will have wasted your compliments.

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Proverbs 23:8

(Pro 23:8 NASB) You will vomit up the morsel you have eaten, And waste your compliments.

Six commands to sons:

1. Don't carry on a conversation with a fool who will despise your words (**Prov 23:9**).
2. Don't remove the old landmarks (**Prov 23:10; note, Prov 22:28**).
3. Don't enter into the fields of orphans to rob them (**Prov 23:10-11**).
4. Apply your heart to wisdom (**Prov 23:12**).
5. Give ear to knowledge (**Prov 23:12**).
6. Don't hesitate to correct a child, even if you have to use a rod.

You will not kill him, but you will save his soul from hell (**Prov 23:13-14**).

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Proverbs 23:9

(Pro 23:9 ISV*) ¶ Don't speak when a fool is listening, because he'll despise your wise words.

(Pro 23:9 KJV+) Speak^{H1696} not^{H408} in the ears^{H241} of a fool:^{H3684} for^{H3588} he will despise^{H936} the wisdom^{H7922} of thy words.^{H4405}

(Pro 23:9 NASB) Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, For he will despise the wisdom of your words.

(Pro 23:9 NIV) Do not speak to a fool, for he will scorn the wisdom of your words.

Proverbs 23:10

(Pro 23:10 ISV*) ¶ Don't move ancient boundaries or invade fields belonging to orphans;

(Pro 23:10 KJV+) Remove^{H5253} not^{H408} the old^{H5769} landmark;^{H1366} and enter^{H935} not^{H408} into the fields^{H7704} of the fatherless:^{H3490}

(Pro 23:10 NASB) Do not move the ancient boundary Or go into the fields of the fatherless,

(Pro 23:10 NIV) Do not move an ancient boundary stone or encroach on the fields of the fatherless,

Proverbs 23:11

(Pro 23:11 ISV*) ¶ for strong is their Redeemer who will take up their case against you.

(Pro 23:11 KJV+) For^{H3588} their redeemer^{H1350} is mighty;^{H2389} he^{H1931} shall plead^{H7378} (H853) their cause^{H7379} with^{H854} thee.

(Pro 23:11 NASB) For their Redeemer is strong; He will plead their case against you.

(Pro 23:11 NIV) for their Defender is strong; he will take up their case against you.

Proverbs 23:11

(Pro 23:11 NASB) For their Redeemer is strong; He will plead their case against you.

[redeemer] This refers to kinsman redemption, not to God as the Redeemer of the soul (*Lev 25:25-54; Num 27:1-11; 36; Ruth 3:9-4:13; Jer 32:1-25*).

The kinsman redeemer had power to avenge the fatherless and marry the widow to preserve the family (*Deut 25:5-10*).

Proverbs 23:12

(Pro 23:12 ISV*) ¶ Learn diligently, and listen to words of knowledge.

(Pro 23:12 KJV+) Apply^{H935} thine heart^{H3820} unto instruction,^{H4148} and thine ears^{H241} to the words^{H561} of knowledge.^{H1847}

(Pro 23:12 NASB) Apply your heart to discipline And your ears to words of knowledge.

(Pro 23:12 NIV) Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge.

Proverbs 23:13

(Pro 23:13 ISV*) ¶ Don't withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with a rod, he won't die.

(Pro 23:13 KJV+) Withhold^{H4513} not^{H408} correction^{H4148} from the child:^{H4480 H5288} for^{H3588} if thou beatest^{H5221} him with the rod,^{H7626} he shall not^{H3808} die.^{H4191}

(Pro 23:13 NASB) Do not hold back discipline from the child, Although you strike him with the rod, he will not die.

(Pro 23:13 NIV) Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die.

Eighteen Commands Concerning the Heart

1. Apply the heart to understanding (*Prov 2:2; 22:17; 23:12*).
2. Open the heart to wisdom (*Prov 2:10*).
3. Keep the commandments (*Prov 3:1; 4:4,21*).
4. Write commandments on it (*Prov 3:3; 7:3*).
5. Trust in the Lord with it (*Prov 3:5*).
6. Keep it with all diligence (*Prov 4:23*).
7. Bind commandments upon it (*Prov 6:21*).
8. Do not lust in it (*Prov 6:25*).
9. Do not be inclined to sin (*Prov 7:25*).
10. Have an understanding heart (*Prov 8:5*).
11. Be wise in it (*Prov 11:29; 16:21; 12:23*).
12. Retain wisdom in it (*Prov 14:33*).
13. Be merry in heart (*Prov 15:13,15*).
14. Study answers with it (*Prov 15:28*).
15. Increase its knowledge (*Prov 18:15*).
16. Apply it to instruction (*Prov 23:12*).
17. Do not use it to envy sinners (*Prov 23:17*).
18. Give heart to wisdom (*Prov 23:26*).

Proverbs 23:14

(Pro 23:14 ISV*) ¶ Punish him with a rod, and you will rescue his soul from Sheol. [i.e. the realm of the dead.]

(Pro 23:14 KJV+) Thou^{H859} shalt beat^{H5221} him with the rod,^{H7626} and shalt deliver^{H5337} his soul^{H5315} from hell.^{H4480 H7585}

(Pro 23:14 NASB) You shall strike him with the rod And rescue his soul from Sheol.

(Pro 23:14 NIV) Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death.

[hell] Hebrew: **She°owl** (OT:7585), the unseen world of departed spirits.

Luke 12:5 Luke 16:19-31.

Proverbs 23:15

On Listening to Your Parents

(Pro 23:15 ISV*) ¶ My son, if your heart is wise, my own heart will greatly rejoice.

(Pro 23:15 KJV+) My son,^{H1121} if^{H518} thine heart^{H3820} be wise,^{H2449} my heart^{H3820} shall rejoice,^{H8055} even^{H1571} mine.^{H589}

(Pro 23:15 NASB) My son, if your heart is wise, My own heart also will be glad;

(Pro 23:15 NIV) My son, if your heart is wise, then my heart will be glad;

[if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine] A wise son is a pleasure to parents (*Prov 23:15-16; 3:12; 10:1; 15:20; 23:24-25; 29:3*).

See *Prov 17:21,25; 19:13,26; 20:20; 28:7,24; 30:11,17*, referring to fools making parents unhappy.

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Proverbs 23:16

(Pro 23:16 ISV*) ¶ My innermost being will be glad when your lips speak what is right.

(Pro 23:16 KJV+) Yea, my reins^{H3629} shall rejoice,^{H5937} when thy lips^{H8193} speak^{H1696} right things.^{H4339}

(Pro 23:16 NASB) And my inmost being will rejoice When your lips speak what is right.

(Pro 23:16 NIV) my inmost being will rejoice when your lips speak what is right.

[reins] The same as the heart or innermost soul of *Prov 23:12,15,17,19,26,33*.

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Proverbs 23:17

(Pro 23:17 ISV*) ¶ Never let yourself envy sinners; instead, remain ^[The Heb. lacks remain] in fear of the LORD every day,

(Pro 23:17 KJV+) Let not^{H408} thine heart^{H3820} envy^{H7065} sinners;^{H2400} but^{H3588} *be thou* in the fear^{H3374} of the LORD^{H3068} all^{H3605} the day^{H3117} long.

(Pro 23:17 NASB) Do not let your heart envy sinners, But *live* in the fear of the LORD always.

(Pro 23:17 NIV) Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the LORD.

Do not envy sinners in your heart, but fear the Lord all day long (*Prov 23:17-18*).

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Proverbs 23:18

(Pro 23:18 ISV*) ¶ for there is surely a future life, and what you hope for will not be cut off.

(Pro 23:18 KJV+) For^{H3588} surely^{H518} there is^{H3426} an end;^{H319} and thine expectation^{H8615} shall not^{H3808} be cut off.^{H3772}

(Pro 23:18 NASB) Surely there is a future, And your hope will not be cut off.

(Pro 23:18 NIV) There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.

There is another life, and your expectation of immortality shall not be cut off (note, *1 Peter 3:4*).

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Proverbs 23:19

(Pro 23:19 ISV*) ¶ Listen, my son, and be wise, commit yourself to live God's ^[Lit. live in the] way.

(Pro 23:19 KJV+) Hear^{H8085} thou,^{H859} my son,^{H1121} and be wise,^{H2449} and guide^{H833} thine heart^{H3820} in the way.^{H1870}

(Pro 23:19 NASB) Listen, my son, and be wise, And direct your heart in the way.

(Pro 23:19 NIV) Listen, my son, and be wise, and keep your heart on the right path.

Proverbs 23:20

(Pro 23:20 ISV*) ¶ Don't associate with heavy drinkers or dine with gluttons,

(Pro 23:20 KJV+) Be^{H1961} not^{H408} among winebibbers,^{H5433 H3196} among riotous eaters^{H2151} of flesh.^{H1320}

(Pro 23:20 NASB) Do not be with heavy drinkers of wine, Or with gluttonous eaters of meat;

(Pro 23:20 NIV) Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat,

Proverbs 23:19

(Pro 23:19 NASB) Listen, my son, and be wise, And direct your heart in the way.

Four commands to sons:

1. Hear — 13 such commands in Proverbs
(*Prov 1:8; 4:1,10; 5:7; 7:24; 8:6,32-33; 19:20,27; 22:17; 23:19,22*).
2. Be wise — commanded 4 times
(*Prov 6:6; 8:33; 23:19; 27:11*).
3. Guide the heart in the right way
(*Prov 23:19; cp. Prov 2:17; 11:3*).
4. Don't be a companion of drunkards and gluttons
(*Prov 23:20-21. Cp. Prov 26:9; Deut 21:20*).

Proverbs 23:21

(Pro 23:21 ISV*) ¶ because drunks and gluttons tend to become poor, and drowsiness will clothe them in rags.

(Pro 23:21 KJV+) For^{H3588} the drunkard^{H5433} and the glutton^{H2151} shall come to poverty:^{H3423} and drowsiness^{H5124} shall clothe^{H3847} a man with rags.^{H7168}

(Pro 23:21 NASB) For the heavy drinker and the glutton will come to poverty, And drowsiness will clothe one with rags.

(Pro 23:21 NIV) for drunkards and gluttons become poor, and drowsiness clothes them in rags.

Proverbs 23:22

(Pro 23:22 ISV*) ¶ Listen to the one who fathered you,
and don't despise your mother in her old age.

(Pro 23:22 KJV+) Hearken^{H8085} unto thy father^{H1} that^{H2088}
begat^{H3205} thee, and despise^{H936} not^{H408} thy mother^{H517}
when^{H3588} she is old.^{H2204}

(Pro 23:22 NASB) Listen to your father who begot you,
And do not despise your mother when she is old.

(Pro 23:22 NIV) Listen to your father, who gave you life,
and do not despise your mother when she is old.

[despise not thy mother when she is old]

This is the fifth commandment in another form (*Ex*
20:12; Deut 5:16; Eph 6:1-2).

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Proverbs 23:22

(Pro 23:22 NASB) Listen to your father who begot you,
And do not despise your mother when she is old.

Four more commands to sons:

1. Hearken — See note above.
2. Don't despise your parents (*Prov 23:22*).
3. Buy the truth, wisdom, instruction, and understanding (*Prov 23:23*).
4. Don't sell the truth, wisdom, instruction, or understanding (*Prov 23:23*).

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Proverbs 23:22

(Pro 23:22 NASB) Listen to your father who begot you,
And do not despise your mother when she is old.

Twelve Things Not to Despise

1. Old mother (*Prov 23:22*)
2. Chastening of the Lord (*Prov 3:11; Job 5:17; Heb 12:5*)
3. A hungry thief (*Prov 6:30; Deut 23:24-25*)
4. The Word (*Prov 13:13*)
5. Neighbors (*Prov 14:21*)
6. Parental instruction (*Prov 15:32; 30:17*)
7. Children and believers (*Matt 18:10*)
8. Weak Christians (*Rom 14:3*)
9. Prophecies (*1 Thess 5:20*)
10. Youth (*1 Tim 4:12*)
11. Masters (*1 Tim 6:2*)
12. Ministers (*Titus 2:15*)

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Proverbs 23:23

(Pro 23:23 ISV*) ¶ Purchase truth, but don't sell it; store
up ^[The Heb. lacks store up] wisdom, instruction, and
understanding.

(Pro 23:23 KJV+) Buy^{H7069} the truth,^{H571} and sell^{H4376} it
not;^{H408} also wisdom,^{H2451} and instruction,^{H4148} and
understanding.^{H998}

(Pro 23:23 NASB) Buy truth, and do not sell it, Get
wisdom and instruction and understanding.

(Pro 23:23 NIV) Buy the truth and do not sell it; get
wisdom, discipline and understanding.

[Buy the truth, and sell it not] This means to acquire the
truth by all rightful means, and then hold on to it, guard it, and
defend it even to the risk of your life (*Prov 4:5,7; 16:16*).

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Proverbs 23:24

(Pro 23:24 ISV*) ¶ The father of a righteous person will greatly rejoice; whoever fathers a wise son will be glad because of him.

(Pro 23:24 KJV+) The father^{H1} of the righteous^{H6662} shall greatly rejoice.^{H1523 H1523} and he that begetteth^{H3205} a wise^{H2450} child shall have joy^{H8055} of him.

(Pro 23:24 NASB) The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, And he who sires a wise son will be glad in him.

(Pro 23:24 NIV) The father of a righteous man has great joy; he who has a wise son delights in him.

[he that begetteth] *Prov 23:15*

Twenty-three Characteristics of a Wise Son

13. He builds for the future (*Prov 14:1*).
14. He departs from evil (*Prov 14:16*).
15. He utters knowledge rightly (*Prov 15:2,7*).
16. He makes parents happy (*Prov 23:15*).
17. He seeks knowledge (*Prov 18:15*).
18. He lives in soberness (*Prov 20:1*).
19. He solves problems of men (*Prov 21:22*).
20. He increases strength (*Prov 24:5*).
21. He keeps the law (*Prov 28:7*).
22. He turns away from contention (*Prov 29:8*).
23. He controls self in strife (*Prov 29:11*).

Twenty-three Characteristics of a Wise Son

1. He hears and obeys parents (*Prov 1:5; 23:24*).
2. He increases knowledge (*Prov 1:5; 12:15*).
3. He profits by examples (*Prov 6:6*).
4. He profits by rebukes (*Prov 9:8; 15:31*).
5. He increases wisdom (*Prov 9:9*).
6. He is diligent in business (*Prov 10:5*).
7. He welcomes commandments (*Prov 10:8*).
8. He lays up knowledge (*Prov 10:14*).
9. He controls lips, tongue (*Prov 10:10; 17:28*).
10. He rules well (*Prov 11:29*).
11. He is a success in soul-winning (*Prov 11:30*).
12. He loves company of wise men (*Prov 13:20*).

Proverbs 23:25

(Pro 23:25 ISV*) ¶ Let your father and mother rejoice; make the one who gave birth to you happy.

(Pro 23:25 KJV+) Thy father^{H1} and thy mother^{H517} shall be glad,^{H8055} and she that bare^{H3205} thee shall rejoice.^{H1523}

(Pro 23:25 NASB) Let your father and your mother be glad, And let her rejoice who gave birth to you.

(Pro 23:25 NIV) May your father and mother be glad; may she who gave you birth rejoice!

Proverbs 23:26

(Pro 23:26 ISV*) ¶ Give me your heart, my son, and keep your eyes fixed on my ways,

(Pro 23:26 KJV+) My son,^{H1121} give^{H5414} me thine heart,^{H3820} and let thine eyes^{H5869} observe^{H5341} my ways.^{H1870}

(Pro 23:26 NASB) Give me your heart, my son, And let your eyes delight in my ways.

(Pro 23:26 NIV) My son, give me your heart and let your eyes keep to my ways,

Here wisdom personified again, as in *Prov 8-9*.

She wants the whole heart and the eyes wholly on her ways.

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Proverbs 23:27

(Pro 23:27 NASB) For a harlot is a deep pit And an adulterous woman is a narrow well.

Prov 23:27-28 tell why sons should be devoted to wisdom and not to prostitutes.

[strange woman] Hebrew: **nokriy** (OT:5237), foreign woman, not a descendant of Abraham (*Gen 17:12*).

She is like a deep ditch and a narrow pit that destroys the souls of men (*Prov 23:27-28*).

Women and strong drink (*Prov 23:29-30*) cause millions to be destroyed.

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Proverbs 23:27

(Pro 23:27 ISV*) ¶ because a prostitute is a deep pit, and the adulterous [Lit. *foreign*] woman a narrow well.

(Pro 23:27 KJV+) For^{H3588} a whore^{H2181} is a deep^{H6013} ditch,^{H7745} and a strange^{H5237} woman is a narrow^{H6862} pit.^{H875}

(Pro 23:27 NASB) For a harlot is a deep pit And an adulterous woman is a narrow well.

(Pro 23:27 NIV) for a prostitute is a deep pit and a wayward wife is a narrow well.

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Proverbs 23:28

(Pro 23:28 ISV*) ¶ Surely she lies in wait like a bandit, increasing those who are faithless among mankind.

(Pro 23:28 KJV+) She^{H1931} also^{H637} lieth in wait^{H693} as for a prey,^{H2863} and increaseth^{H3254} the transgressors^{H898} among men.^{H120}

(Pro 23:28 NASB) Surely she lurks as a robber, And increases the faithless among men.

(Pro 23:28 NIV) Like a bandit she lies in wait, and multiplies the unfaithful among men.

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Proverbs 23:29

On Sobriety

(Pro 23:29 ISV*) Who has woe? Who has grief? Who has contention? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has bloodshot eyes?

(Pro 23:29 KJV+) Who^{H4310} hath woe?^{H188} who^{H4310} hath sorrow?^{H17} who^{H4310} hath contentions?^{H4079} who^{H4310} hath babbling?^{H7879} who^{H4310} hath wounds^{H6482} without cause?^{H2600} who^{H4310} hath redness^{H2448} of eyes?^{H5869}

(Pro 23:29 NASB) Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes?

(Pro 23:29 NIV) Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaints? Who has needless bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes?

Proverbs 23:29

(Pro 23:29 NASB) Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes?

Questions 23-28. Next, **Prov 23:35**.

Six curses of drunkards:

- woes;
- sorrows;
- contentions;
- babblings;
- wounds; and
- redness of eyes.

Proverbs 23:30

(Pro 23:30 ISV*) ¶ Those who linger over their wine, who consume mixed drinks.

(Pro 23:30 KJV+) They that tarry long^{H309} at^{H5921} the wine;^{H3196} they that go^{H935} to seek^{H2713} mixed wine.^{H4469}

(Pro 23:30 NASB) Those who linger long over wine, Those who go to taste mixed wine.

(Pro 23:30 NIV) Those who linger over wine, who go to sample bowls of mixed wine.

Proverbs 23:30

(Pro 23:30 NASB) Those who linger long over wine, Those who go to taste mixed wine.

[wine] Hebrew: **yayin** (OT:3196), what is pressed out; the juice of grapes, mulberries, dates, figs, etc.

Used 140 times of every kind of wine, both fermented and unfermented;

Usually of fermented wines (**Gen 9:21; 1 Sam 25:36-37; Isa 28:1; Jer 23:9**).

Used of mixed wine (**Prov 23:30; cp. Prov 9:2,5; 20:1; 23:30-31; 31:4,6**).

[mixed wine] Hebrew: **mamcak** (OT:4469), mixed or spiced wine (**Prov 23:30; Isa 65:11**).

Proverbs 23:31

(Pro 23:31 ISV*) ¶ Don't stare into red wine, when it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly.

(Pro 23:31 KJV+) Look^{H7200} not^{H408} thou upon the wine^{H3196} when^{H3588} it is red,^{H119} when^{H3588} it giveth^{H5414} his colour^{H5869} in the cup,^{H3563} when it moveth itself^{H1980} aright.^{H4339}

(Pro 23:31 NASB) Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, When it goes down smoothly;

(Pro 23:31 NIV) Do not gaze at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly!

Wine **Yayin** (OT:3196) is forbidden here specifically when it turns red, bubbles, and when it intoxicates (**Prov 23:31-35**), implying that it isn't always intoxicating.

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Proverbs 23:32

(Pro 23:32 NASB) At the last it bites like a serpent And stings like a viper.

Seven characteristics of drunkards:

1. Intemperance (**Prov 23:30-31**)
2. Delirium tremens (**Prov 23:32**)
3. Sexual sins (**Prov 23:33**)
4. Babblings and indecent talk (**Prov 23:33**)
5. Reeling and falling (**Prov 23:34**)
6. Insensibility (**Prov 23:35**)
7. Bondage to drink (**Prov 23:35**)

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Proverbs 23:32

(Pro 23:32 ISV*) ¶ Eventually it will bite like a snake and sting like a serpent.

(Pro 23:32 KJV+) At the last^{H319} it biteth^{H5391} like a serpent,^{H5175} and stingeth^{H6567} like an adder.^{H6848}

(Pro 23:32 NASB) At the last it bites like a serpent And stings like a viper.

(Pro 23:32 NIV) In the end it bites like a snake and poisons like a viper.

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Proverbs 23:33

(Pro 23:33 ISV*) ¶ Your eyes will see strange things, and with slurred words you'll speak what you really believe.

(Pro 23:33 KJV+) Thine eyes^{H5869} shall behold^{H7200} strange women,^{H2114} and thine heart^{H3820} shall utter^{H1696} perverse things.^{H8419}

(Pro 23:33 NASB) Your eyes will see strange things And your mind will utter perverse things.

(Pro 23:33 NIV) Your eyes will see strange sights and your mind imagine confusing things.

[strange women] Hebrew: **zuwr** (OT:2114), apostate (**Prov 2:16**).

Not the same word as in **Prov 23:27**.

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Proverbs 23:33

Sixteen Characteristics of a Wicked Heart

1. It despises reproof (**Prov 5:12**).
2. It is perverse, devises continual mischief, and sows discord (**Prov 6:14**).
3. It devises wicked imaginations (**Prov 6:18**).
4. It lusts after beautiful women (**Prov 6:25**).
5. It is full of subtlety (**Prov 7:10**).
6. It full of deceit (**Prov 12:20**).
7. It proclaims foolishness (**Prov 12:23**).
8. It is proud and abominable (**Prov 16:5; 21:4; 28:25**).
9. It is haughty (**Prov 18:12**).
10. It finds fault with God (**Prov 19:3**).
11. It is perverse in talk (**Prov 23:33**).
12. It studies how to destroy others (**Prov 24:2**).
13. It is glad when others stumble (**Prov 24:17**).
14. It is full of abominations (**Prov 26:25**).
15. It has increased hardening against God (**Prov 28:14**).
16. It trusts in self (**Prov 28:26**).

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Proverbs 23:35

(Pro 23:35 ISV*) ¶ “They struck me,” you will say, ^[The Heb. lacks you will say] “but I never felt it. They beat me, but I never knew it When will I wake up? I want another drink.”

(Pro 23:35 KJV+) They have stricken^{H5221} me, *shalt thou say, and I was not*^{H1077} sick;^{H2470} they have beaten^{H1986} me, and I felt^{H3045} it not:^{H1077} when^{H4970} shall I awake?^{H6974} I will seek^{H1245} it yet^{H3254} again.^{H5750}

(Pro 23:35 NASB) "They struck me, *but* I did not become ill; They beat me, *but* I did not know *it*. When shall I awake? I will seek another drink."

(Pro 23:35 NIV) "They hit me," you will say, "but I'm not hurt! They beat me, but I don't feel it! When will I wake up so I can find another drink?"

[when shall I awake?] Question 29. Next, **Prov 24:12**.

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Proverbs 23:34

(Pro 23:34 ISV*) ¶ You will be like someone who lies down in the sea, or like someone who sleeps on top of a mast.

(Pro 23:34 KJV+) Yea, thou shalt be^{H1961} as he that lieth down^{H7901} in the midst^{H3820} of the sea,^{H3220} or as he that lieth^{H7901} upon the top^{H7218} of a mast.^{H2260}

(Pro 23:34 NASB) And you will be like one who lies down in the middle of the sea, Or like one who lies down on the top of a mast.

(Pro 23:34 NIV) You will be like one sleeping on the high seas, lying on top of the rigging.

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