

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | Fearing Deity & Defying Stupidity
December 17, 2023 | “Three Stupid Things” | **Proverbs 6:1–19**

1. _____ – becoming legally liable for the debt, default, or failure in duty of another (6:1–5)

2. _____ – a disinclination towards labor and action (6:6–11)

3. _____ – a pervasive desire for strife, disharmony, and discord (6:12–19)

Questions for further application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Proverbs 6:1–5. Would you ever consider co-signing for another person’s debt? What are some factors worth considering in that decision? Are there any debts that you currently have that are keeping you in bondage? What plans do you have to free yourself from that bondage?

Read Proverbs 6:6–11. List three ways that slothfulness can gradually creep into your life. What are the effects of spiritual slothfulness? How do you plan to guard yourself and your family against excessive busyness that can lead to spiritual slothfulness?

Read Proverbs 6:12–19. Why does God view “sowing discord among brothers” as an abomination? Are you more of a conflict-averse person or a conflict-inclined person? List some of the pros and cons of your personality as it relates to conflict. Why is it important to learn how to resolve conflict in healthy ways with others?

GET PERSONAL

What’s the difference between “good ethics” and “gospel ethics?” How is our interpretation and application of Proverbs 6 impacted by the cross? Are you saved by your good ethics? If not, then why bother with them?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

If you are currently in a position of surety, how might you extract yourself from that situation (6:1–5)? If you are currently living a life of excessive slothfulness or unhealthy busyness, how might you remedy that situation? Reach out to a biblical counselor to help you with that struggle.

Read as many verses as you can that deal with relational harmony and disharmony (e.g. Ps 133:1; Prov 10:12; 17:9; 22:10; 28:12; Matt 6:14–15; 18:21–22; Rom 12:18, 16:17; Eph 4:1-3, 31-32; Col 3:13; Titus 3:10-11; Heb 12:14; Jas 5:16). How does relational disharmony affect the church? How can you be an agent of reconciliation in the church and not an agent of discord?

ADVANCED QUESTION

Consider the current debate regarding college loans and student debt in the United States. Is this an issue of compassion and generosity? Or is this an issue of poor stewardship? How does this modern day problem relate to the ancient concept of Jubilee in the OT? How does it relate to the biblical concept of forgiveness? For help discerning this issue, read the following TGC articles:

- 1) “5 Myths About Jubilee”: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/5-myths-about-jubilee/>
- 2) “Social Justice and the Poor (3)”: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-devyoung/social-justice-and-poor-3/>
- 3) “Should the Government Forgive Student Loans”: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/should-the-government-forgive-student-loans/>