

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | Fearing Deity & Defying Stupidity
Feb 25, 2024 | "Optimize Your Righteous Behavior" | **Proverbs 11:1–31**

The People of God are called to demonstrate:

- 1) Righteousness in our _____
(11:1–8)
- 2) Righteousness in our _____
(11:9–13)
- 3) Righteousness in our _____
(11:14–23)
- 4) Righteousness in our _____
(11:24–28)
- 5) Righteousness in our _____
(11:29–31)

Questions for further application of God's Word:

GO DEEPER

Before reading and applying Proverbs 11, consider your status before the Lord. Have you put your faith in the Son of God, thereby becoming a child of God? Are you saved by your own righteousness or by Christ's? How does Christ's righteousness (imputed to us) motivate us to live a life of godliness, righteousness, and integrity after salvation?

Read Proverbs 11 from start to finish. How many times is "righteous" or "righteousness" mentioned in this chapter? What other words are used that convey similar meaning? Why would Solomon want his son to live a righteous life? Why would God record this in his Word for us to read 3,000 years later?

How does a Christian demonstrate righteousness in business or in the workplace? What about in our community? What about in our family? Why is this important to the Lord? Why is this important for our witness before the watching world?

GET PERSONAL

In what ways have you learned integrity, ethics, and good morals from your family and your culture? Are there things that you learned from your family and your culture that you need to unlearn?

How is generosity encouraged in Proverbs 11? How is generosity linked to righteousness? Are you a naturally generous person? Are there ways that you can "bring blessing" to others and "water" others in obedience to 11:25?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Read Proverbs 11:2. Do you ever struggle in your heart with pride? Look up the passages in the OT and NT that deal with the subject of pride and humility. Read them out loud, and then pray and ask God to help you demonstrate humility and not pride in your interaction with others. Use a search like the following to help you identify key passages on the subject:

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/humility>

ADVANCED QUESTION

Solomon says in 11:14, "Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety." Evaluate this statement as a truism. Are there times when guidance leads people astray? Are there times when too many counselors create confusion (i.e. too many cooks spoil the broth)? What is the general principle that Solomon is advocating for here?