

# sermon notes

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Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | Fearing Deity & Defying Stupidity  
May 26, 2024 | “Man No Be God” | **Proverbs 21:1–31**

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1) Sovereign \_\_\_\_\_ vs. Vulnerable \_\_\_\_\_  
(21:1–2, 30–31)

2) Honest \_\_\_\_\_ vs. Insincere \_\_\_\_\_  
(20:3–4, 27–29)

3) Thoughtful \_\_\_\_\_ vs. Thoughtless \_\_\_\_\_  
(20:5–8, 20–26)

4) Peaceful \_\_\_\_\_ vs. Perpetual \_\_\_\_\_  
(20:9–19)

## Questions for further application of God’s Word:

### GO DEEPER

Read Proverbs 21:1–2 and 21:30–31. What truths are emphasized at the beginning and the end of this chapter? How is the Lord contrasted with man? How is God’s sovereignty contrasted with man’s vulnerability? Is it a comfort to you to recognize that God is in sovereign control of our world (and your life)? If not, why not?

Count up the number of times “righteous(ness)” and “upright(ness)” are used in Proverbs 21. What other positive words are used to describe positive character? Now count up the number of times the word “wicked” shows up in this passage. What other words are used to describe wickedness? Why is this contrast (between righteousness and wickedness) so important in Proverbs?

### GET PERSONAL

Read Proverbs 21:3 and 21:27. What role did sacrifices play in the OT? Why is the sacrifice of the wicked called an abomination? How is this mentality (hypocrisy?) demonstrated in the NT world? Is the Lord displeased with our insincere acts of worship too? If so, what do those look like in our lives?

Read Proverbs 21:4. Read also 24:27 where Solomon uses four Hebrew words for “pride” to describe the scoffer. Why is pride so destructive in a person’s life? How is it an affront to God? How, in light of man’s status before God, is it also illogical? How do you address the issues of pride in your life? How do you practically cultivate humility?

### PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

In Proverbs 21:2, Solomon says, “Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the heart.” David prayed the following prayer in Psalm 139:23–24: “Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” Pray that prayer before the Lord now and ask the Holy Spirit to “weigh your heart” and reveal any lingering sin, pride, or ungodly thoughts. Ask the Lord to forgive you of those sins (see 1 John 1:9), and to give you strength in fighting them.

### ADVANCED QUESTION

Read Proverbs 21:17. What is Solomon teaching in this proverb? Is it wrong to be rich? Is it honorable to be poor? Should we “eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die?” Should we be stingy and hoard resources? Should we be generous? Should we consume at a faster rate than we conserve? How do we avoid the trappings of consumerism whether rich, poor, or somewhere in-between?