

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | Fearing Deity & Defying Stupidity
June 16, 2024 | “Thirty Resolutions to Live By (Part 1)” | **Prov 22:17–23:11**

- 1) Always be _____ to _____ (22:17–21)
- 2) Don’t _____ from the _____ (22:22–23)
- 3) Don’t _____ yourself to _____ (22:24–25)
- 4) Don’t _____ yourself for another’s _____ (22:26–27)
- 5) Don’t _____ boundaries _____ (22:28)
- 6) Always be _____ in your _____ (22:29)
- 7) Don’t let _____ you (23:1–3)
- 8) Don’t _____ yourself trying to get _____ (23:4–5)
- 9) Don’t _____ with a stingy _____ (23:6–8)
- 10) Don’t _____ your words on a _____ (23:9)
- 11) Don’t take _____ from the _____ (23:10–11)

Questions for further application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Proverbs 22:17–21. Why do scholars consider this the start of a new section in Proverbs? Where does this section end? Can you identify the “thirty sayings” in this section?

Read Proverbs 22:17–23:11. Without the help of the outline above, try to identify the first eleven of the thirty sayings in this section. One prominent OT scholar (Bruce Waltke) thinks this section centers on wealth/money. Agree or disagree? Where is wealth emphasized in these first eleven sayings? Is the accrual of wealth seen as positive or negative (or neutral) in this section? What about in the book of Proverbs as a whole?

Why is the moving of an ancient boundary (22:28; 23:10–11) such a negative thing in ancient Israel? Are kings able to disregard ancient property rights (see 1 Kings 21:1–29)? What is the applicational thrust of this OT command for us as NT believers?

GET PERSONAL

Read Proverbs 22:29. What is your work/craft/skill? Will you ever perform that work before a great leader or king in this world? If not, why continue to work hard? Consider this passage in light of Colossians 3:23–24.

Read Proverbs 22:24–25. Is it realistic to avoid “friendships” or “relationships” with angry people? What do you do when you have to deal with an angry family member or coworker? How do you deal with issues of anger in your own life? Are you someone who others describe as hot-tempered?

Read Proverbs 23:4–5. How is your work-life balance? How do you balance the demands of work, family, church, recreation, etc.? Who keeps you accountable for that? If someone warned you that you are too preoccupied with work, how would you respond?

ADVANCED QUESTION

Compare and contrast Proverbs 23:9 with Jesus’s statement in Matthew 7:6. Do these passages correlate conceptually and contextually? What is the context of Jesus’s statement? Do you agree with the *ESV Study Bible’s* comment on this verse: “Believers are to be merciful, forgiving, and slow to judge (7:1–5), yet they should wisely discern the true character of people and not indefinitely continue proclaiming the gospel to those who adamantly reject it, so that they can move on and proclaim the gospel to others.”