

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | Fearing Deity & Defying Stupidity
June 23, 2024 | “Thirty Resolutions to Live By (Part 2)” | **Prov 23:12–24:2**

12) Don't _____ (23:12–14)

13) Pursue _____ and make your _____ happy (23:15–16)

14) Be _____ by the fear of the _____ (23:17–18)

15) Don't _____ (23:19–21)

16) Be _____ to parental _____ (23:22–25)

17) Don't be _____ by _____ sex (23:26–28)

18) Don't be _____ to _____ (23:29–35)

19) Don't be _____ of _____ (24:1–2)

Questions for further application of God's Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Proverbs 23:12–24:2 and review sayings 12–19. Write these out in your own words (as rules or resolutions). Review also the eleven sayings/resolutions from 22:17–23:11. How many of these sayings relate to the trappings of youth? What ideas are repeated? How many of these resolutions are prohibitions?

Read Proverbs 23:17–18. What does it mean to “continue in the fear of the Lord all the day?” How does the fear of the Lord help us with the other resolutions on this list?

In Proverbs 23:12–14, what command does Solomon give to children? What about to parents? Talk through the ways that sons and daughters should apply all of 23:12–24:2 in their lives. How should parents help their children to apply these verses?

GET PERSONAL

Read Proverbs 23:17 and 24:1–2. Also read Psalm 73. What do Solomon and David say about envying evildoers? In what ways might a Christian struggle with this kind of envy? Are there times when you resent your Christian conscience or the conviction of the Holy Spirit? Are you guilty of thinking that you are missing out on something? Or that God is holding out on you? How do you remind yourself of the truth in those moments?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Consider the following cliché: “Rules without reasons lead to rebellion.” Agree or disagree? Write out some valid reasons for rules/resolutions. Now think through some false reasons for rules/resolutions. Here are some questions to ask: Are rules meant to impress other people? Are rules meant to earn favor with God? Are rules meant to strengthen one's relationship with God? Can rules bring joy? Can rules bring us closer to the Lord? Can they protect our relationships with others? How do we balance rules and discipline with the freedom that we have in Christ?

ADVANCED QUESTION

Read the following TGC article on alcohol consumption:

www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/christians-need-better-debate-alcohol/.

What are the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of the total abstinence position? Evaluate the moderation position (“the imbibers”) along the same lines. How might Romans 14:13–23 and 1 Corinthians 8:1–13 impact our analysis of this topic?