

# sermon notes

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Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | Fearing Deity & Defying Stupidity  
July 14, 2024 | “The Power of Prohibitions” | **Prov 24:23–34**

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- 1) Don't show \_\_\_\_\_  
(24:23–26)
  
- 2) Don't put the \_\_\_\_\_ before the \_\_\_\_\_  
(24:27)
  
- 3) Don't be \_\_\_\_\_  
(24:28–29)
  
- 4) Don't be \_\_\_\_\_ in your \_\_\_\_\_  
(24:30–34)

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

### GO DEEPER

Read Proverbs 24:23–26. What are some ways that partiality is shown in our country? What about in churches and in families? Why is partiality (favoritism) so offensive to the Lord? How is it a form of injustice? Access the following passages to help you answer these questions: Lev 19:15; Deut 1:16–17; 16:19; Acts 10:34–35; Rom 2:11; Eph 6:9; Col 3:23–25; 1 Tim 5:21; Jas 2:1–9.

Read Proverbs 24:30–34. Is work a curse? Why or why not? Do you sometimes view your work as a curse (or as cursed)? What's right and what's wrong with that attitude? Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6–12. Summarize Paul's instructions to idle people in the church. What does it mean to be idle? What does it mean to be a busybody? Why was it important to Paul that everyone work quietly and earn their own living (3:12)?

### GET PERSONAL

Read Proverbs 24:28–29. Are you a naturally vengeful person? Does forgiveness come easy for you or are you a grudge-holder? What does Solomon encourage in this passage? What role does truth have in regard to justice? Should we obscure the truth in order to protect someone (ourselves?) from judgment?

Read Proverbs 24:27. Consider what's necessary in our modern-day world for a man to establish a house/home. Should a man get married before he is gainfully employed? Should a woman? Should a man marry without having a plan to support a family in the future? Should a woman marry a man who doesn't have said plan? Why or why not? What are some other factors to consider? Should people take on debts before they are able to pay them off?

### PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

What are some important prohibitions that you have embraced in your life? List 10–20 things that you want to avoid your entire life. Does your list of prohibitions have Scriptural warrant? If so, where? Submit those to the Lord in prayer. Write them down somewhere where you can review them regularly (e.g. on your bathroom mirror)?

### ADVANCED QUESTION

Do prohibitions actually have power? If we are saved by grace, and prohibitions won't save us, then why embrace them? And even if they do have some power, isn't there more power in talking about what we can do instead of fixating on what we shouldn't do? Think through the analogy of a foot race from Hebrews 12:1 to assess this situation. And access the following “sermon clip” from John Piper to help you with your thinking:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/holiness-is-a-race-not-a-prohibition>