

# The Wise Man According to Proverbs: An Outline

## His Character

### He Is Teachable, Not Intractable

1. He receives and loves instruction (18:15; 19:20)
2. He grows in wisdom (1:5; 9:9; 10:14)

### He Is Righteous, Not Wicked

1. He fears the Lord (1:7; 14:16; see below under relationship to the Lord)
2. He hates what is false (13:5)
3. He shuns evil (3:7; 14:16; 16:6)
4. He does what is righteous (2:20)
5. He speaks the truth (22:21)

### He Is Humble, Not Proud (15:33)

### He Is Self-controlled, Not Rash

## 1. His temperament

1. He is self-controlled (29:11)
2. He has a calm spirit (17:27)
3. He is slow to become angry (29:8,11)

## 2. His actions

1. He is cautious, not hasty (19:2)
2. He thinks before he acts (13:16; 14:8)
3. He thinks before he speaks (12:23; 15:2)

### He Is Forgiving, Not Vindictive

1. He is patient (19:11)
2. He is concerned about goodwill/peace (14:9)
3. He forgives those who wrong him (10:12; 17:9)
4. He is not vindictive (20:22; 24:29)

## His Relationships

### To the Lord

1. He fears the Lord (9:10; 14:16; 15:33)
2. He trusts in the Lord (3:5; 16:3,20)
3. He is ever mindful of the Lord (3:6)
4. He chooses the Lord's way/wisdom (8:10-11; 17:24)
5. He submits to the Lord's discipline (1:2-3; 3:11)
6. He confesses his sin (28:13)

### To His Family

## 1. To his parents

1. Respects them (17:6; contrast 30:17)
2. Listens to them (23:22; cf. 1:8; 4:1)
3. Seeks to bring them honor and joy
  1. By being wise (10:1; 15:20; 29:3)
  2. By being righteous (23:24)
  3. By being diligent (10:5)

## 2. To his wife

1. He appreciates her
  1. As a gift from the Lord (18:22; 19:14)
  2. As his crowning glory (12:4; 31:10-31)
2. He praises her (31:28)
3. He trusts her (31:11)
4. He is faithful to her (5:15-20)

3. To his children
  1. He loves them (3:12; 13:24)
  2. He is concerned about them (1:8-9:18)
  3. He trains them (22:6)
    1. Reasons for training them
      1. Own peace of mind and joy (29:17)
      2. Child's honor and well-being (1:8-9; 4:9; 19:18; 23:13-14)
    2. By teaching/instructing them (1:10; chs. 5-7; 28:7; cf. 4:1-9)
    3. By disciplining them
      1. By verbal correction (13:1)
      2. By physical discipline (13:24; 23:13-14)
  4. He provides for their
    1. Physical needs (21:20; cf. 27:23-27)
    2. Spiritual heritage (14:26; 20:7)

#### To His Friends and Neighbors

1. To his friends
  1. He values them (27:10)
  2. He is constant to them (17:17; 18:24)
  3. He gives them counsel (27:9,17; cf. 27:6; 28:23)
2. To his neighbors
  1. He fulfills his obligations (3:27-28)
  2. He strives for peace (3:29-30)
  3. He does not outstay his welcome (25:17)
  4. He does not deceive or mislead them (16:29; 26:18-19)

#### His Words

##### The Power of His Words

1. Their power
  1. The power of life and death (12:6; 13:14; 15:4; 18:21)
  2. The power to heal or to wound (11:9,11; 12:18; 15:4,30; 16:24)
2. Their limitation
  1. No substitute for deeds (14:23)
  2. Cannot alter the facts (26:23-26)
  3. Cannot compel response (29:19)

##### The Character of His Words

1. They are honest, not false (12:22; 16:13)
2. They are few, not many (10:19)
  1. Not boastful (27:2)
  2. Not argumentative (17:14)
  3. Not contentious (29:9)
  4. Not a gossip
    1. Revealing secrets (11:13; 20:19)
    2. Spreading slander (10:18; 26:20-22)
3. They are calm, not emotional
  1. Rational (15:28; 17:27)
  2. Gentle and peaceable (15:1,18)
  3. Yet persuasive (25:15)
4. They are apt, not untimely (15:23; 25:11)

##### The Source of His Words

1. His heart/character (compare 4:23 with Mt 12:33-35)
  1. Positively, he is righteous (cf. 10:11; 13:14)
  2. Negatively, he is not
    1. Proud (13:10; cf. 6:16-19)

2. Hateful (26:24,28)
  2. His companions (13:20; 27:17)
- Reflections (15:28)