

Lessons From Proverbs – How To Be Happy In Life

Lesson Five

Proverbs 8:32, "Now therefore, my sons, hearken unto me; for **blessed** are they that keep my ways."
Proverbs 8:34, "**Blessed** is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors."

Happy ...

- Proverbs 3:13-18 ...
- Proverbs 14:21, "He that despiseth his neighbor sinneth; but he that hath pity on the poor, **happy** is he."
- Proverbs 16:20, "He that giveth heed unto the word shall find good; And whoso trusteth in Jehovah, **happy** is he."
- Proverbs 28:14, "**Happy** is the man that feareth alway; But he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief."
- Proverbs 29:18, "Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint; But he that keepeth the law, **happy** is he."

Negatively, to be Happy, One Must NOT:

Be a Fool!

1. Proverbs 1:7, "But the **foolish** despise wisdom and instruction."
2. Proverbs 1:22, "... **fools** hate knowledge."
3. Are often destroyed by "careless ease." Proverbs 1:32
4. Proverbs 3:35, "... shame shall be the promotion (legacy) of **fools**"
5. Proverbs 14:9, "**Fools** mock at sin, but among the righteous there is favor." (KJV)
6. One who "trusts in his own heart is a **fool**."
Proverbs 28:26; cf. Proverbs 3:5, "trust in Jehovah with all thy heart and lean not upon thine own understanding."

Negatively, to be Happy, One Must NOT:

Lie.

- Proverbs 18:21, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof."
cf. Ephesians 4:25; Revelation 21:8.
1. God hates "a **lying** tongue," and "a **false witness** who speaks lies." Proverbs 6:16-19.
 2. Proverbs 12:22, "**Lying** lips are an abomination to the Lord"
 3. Proverbs 19:5, "A **false witness** shall not go unpunished, and he who uttereth **lies** shall not escape"
 4. Proverbs 13:3, "He that guardeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction."

Negatively, to be Happy, One Must NOT:

Be Contentious.

Proverbs 21:9; 25:24, "It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, Than with a **contentious** woman in a wide house."
Proverbs 21:19, "It is better to dwell in a desert land, Than with a **contentious** and fretful woman."
Proverbs 26:21, "(As) coals are to hot embers, and wood to fire, So is a **contentious** man to inflame strife."

Negatively, to be Happy, One Must NOT:

Be Proud! cf. Matthew 5:3; 23:12; James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5.

1. Proverbs 11:2, "When **pride** comes, then cometh shame; but with the lowly is wisdom"
2. Proverbs 16:18, "**Pride** goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall"
3. Proverbs 21:4, "A high look, and a **proud** heart, and the lamp of the wicked is sin"
4. Proverbs 26:12, "Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him." (NASV)
5. Proverbs 8:13, "The fear of Jehovah is to hate evil: **Pride**, and arrogancy ... do I hate." cf. Proverbs 12:15; Proverbs 13:10; Proverbs 29:23

Negatively, to be Happy, One Must NOT:

- **Be Lazy!** cf. Ephesians 4:28; 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12; 2 Thessalonians 3:10-14
- 1. Proverbs 10:4, "*He becometh poor that worketh with a slack hand; but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.*"
- 2. Proverbs 12:24, "*The hand of the diligent will rule, but the lazy man will be put to forced labor.*" (NKJV)
- 3. Proverbs 15:19, "*The way of the lazy man is like a hedge of thorns, but the way of the upright is a highway.*" (NKJV)
- 4. Proverbs 19:15, "*Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger.*" (NKJV)

Negatively, to be Happy, One Must NOT:

- **Be Materialistic.** Proverbs 11:24-28; 13:7, 11, 22, 25; Proverbs 14:21
- Proverbs 15:16-17, "*Better is little, with the fear of Jehovah, than great treasure and trouble therewith. Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith.*"
- Proverbs 17:1, "*Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than a house full of feasting with strife.*"
 - Misplaced values. Proverbs 15:6; Matthew 6:19;
 - Luke 12:15ff; cf. Colossians 3:1-2
 - Respectable worldliness. Luke 14:15ff

Negatively, to be Happy, One Must NOT:

Consume Alcoholic Beverages!

1. Proverbs 20:1, "*Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whosoever erreth thereby is not wise*"
2. Proverbs 23:29-32, "*Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? Who hath complaining? who hath wounds without cause? Who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; They that go to seek out mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, When it sparkleth in the cup, When it goeth down smoothly: At the last it biteth like a serpent, And stingeth like an adder.*"
- 1 Peter 4:3, "*For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles – when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.*" NKJV

Positively, to be Happy, One MUST:

Control His Tongue! cf. Colossians 4:5-6;

- Matthew 12:34-37; James 1:19, 26; 3:1-12.
- 1. Proverbs 10:11, "*The **mouth** of the righteous is a fountain of life, but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.*"
- 2. Proverbs 10:31, "*The **mouth** of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but the perverse tongue shall be cut off.*"
- 3. Proverbs 12:18, "*There is that speaketh rashly like the piercings of a sword; But the **tongue** of the wise is health.*"
- 4. Proverbs 15:1, "*A soft answer turneth away wrath; but a grievous (harsh NKJV) **word** stirreth up anger.*" (cf. verse 4)
- 5. Proverbs 25:11, "*A **word** fitly spoken is like apples of gold in network of silver.*"

Positively, to be Happy, One MUST:

Control His Tongue!

- The tongue used wisely is a great blessing to others.
- It is likened to "*choice silver.*" Proverbs 10:20
- It is "*health.*" Proverbs 12:18
- It is called "*a tree of life.*" Proverbs 15:4
- It is called "*a precious Jewel.*" Proverbs 20:15

Positively, to be Happy, One MUST:

Honor His family Responsibilities!

Children should:

- a. Listen to their parents:
 - Proverbs 1:8-9, "*My son, **hear** the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother; for they will be a graceful ornament on your head, and chains about your neck.*" (NKJV)
 - Proverbs 29:15, "*A child left to himself causeth shame to his mother.*" (cf. Ephesians 6:4)
 - Learner. Proverbs 13:1; 15:5, 10; cf. 1 Kings 12; Lamentations 3:27, "*It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.*"
- b. Obey their parents. "*My son, keep your father's command, and forsake not the law of your mother*" Proverbs 6:20.
- c. Honor their parents. Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:1-2.

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Fathers should.

- Properly discipline their children.
 - Proverbs 13:24 *"He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly."* (NKJV)
 - Proverbs 19:18, *"Chasten your son while there is hope, and do not set your heart on his destruction."* (NKJV) cf. Proverbs 23:13; cf. Hebrews 12:11
 - Proverbs 22:6, *"Train up a child in the way he should go, and even when he is old he will not depart from it."* cf. Proverbs 29:15, 17; 1 Samuel 3:11-14

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Husbands should ... Be the head, and love your wife. Ephesians 5:23ff

a. Avoid immorality. God's wisdom is designed to "deliver" one "from the immoral woman." (NKJV) Proverbs 2:16. Only those who lack understanding (and character!) will yield to this temptation, Proverbs 9:13-18.

b. Honor your wife.

Proverbs 18:22, *"He who findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of Jehovah."*

Proverbs 19:14, *"Houses and riches are an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the Jehovah."*

Proverbs 31:28, *"Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her."*

Positively, to be Happy, One MUST:

Honor His family Responsibilities!

The wife should – Proverbs 31:

- a. Be virtuous, verse 10, trustworthy, verse 11, kind in her words, verse 26, industrious, verse 27.
- a. Be in subjection. 1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:33; 1 Peter 3:1-6; 1 Timothy 2:9-13

Positively, to be Happy, One MUST:

Have perseverance. cf. Galatians 6:9; 1 Corinthians 15:58

Proverbs 24:10, *"If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small."*

Proverbs 24:16, *"For a righteous man falleth seven times, and riseth up again; but the wicked are overthrown by calamity."*

Positively, to be Happy, One MUST:

Maintain an inner joy.

Proverbs 15:13, *"A glad heart maketh a cheerful countenance; But by sorrow of heart the spirit is broken."*

Proverbs 15:15, *"All the days of the afflicted are evil; But he that is of a cheerful heart (hath) a continual feast."*

Proverbs 17:22, *"A cheerful heart is a good medicine; But a broken spirit drieth up the bones."*

Positively, to be Happy, One MUST:

Trust in the Lord.

Proverbs 3:5, *"Trust in Jehovah with all thy heart, And lean not upon thine own understanding"*

Proverbs 30:5, *"Every word of God is tried: He is a shield unto them that take refuge in him."*

Conclusion:

- Remember this: true, lasting happiness comes from doing the Lord's will. cf. Deuteronomy 6:24
- Revelation 22:14, "*Blessed are they that wash their robes, that they may have the right (to come) to the tree of life, and may enter in by the gates into the city.*"