

Proverbs are generally wise, practical sayings designed to provoke a response in those that hear/read them

Their purpose is to help us

1. \_\_\_\_\_ life successfully
2. \_\_\_\_\_ godly character
3. \_\_\_\_\_ obedience to God

Why does the Bible contain so many "MUST NOTS," "DO NOTS" and "DON'TS"?

1. T/F God doesn't want us to have any fun.
2. T/F God doesn't think we are smart enough to decide for ourselves.
3. T/F God wants the very best for us.

What does God realize that we don't or at the very least, we minimize?

- The \_\_\_\_\_ of sin  
*"I love God's law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me." Rom. 7:22-23*
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of sin  
*"All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one." Rom. 3:12*
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of sin  
*"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord." Rom. 6:23*

In the New Testament, God summarizes all the "DO'S" and "DON'TS" with this:

*"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind." AND "Love your neighbor as yourself."*

*"The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments." Matthew 22:37-40*

In Proverbs 23, we find 10 "DON'TS"

1. *"Don't desire all the delicacies..." (v. 3)*
2. *"Don't wear yourself out trying to get rich." (v. 4)*
3. *"Don't eat with people who are stingy; don't desire their delicacies." (v. 6)*
4. *"Don't waste your breath on fools." (v. 9)*
5. *"Don't cheat your neighbor by moving the ancient boundary markers; don't take the land of defenseless orphans." (v. 10)*
6. *"Don't fail to discipline your children." (v. 13)*
7. *"Don't envy sinners." (v. 17)*
8. *"Do not carouse with drunkards or feast with gluttons." (v. 20)*
9. *"Listen to your father, who gave you life, and don't despise your mother when she is old." (v. 22)*
10. *"Don't gaze at the wine, seeing how red it is, or how it sparkles in the cup, how smoothly it goes down." (v. 31)*

Sandwiched in these "Don'ts" we find this nugget:

*"O my son [daughter], give me your heart. May your eyes take delight in following my ways." (v. 26)*

Here's what we know:

1. There is \_\_\_\_\_ for our hearts  
*"The heart was esteemed by the ancients the seat of the affections." Thomas Coke*
2. Our hearts are the most \_\_\_\_\_ thing we have  
*"To give our heart to God, implies that we give him, the affections of the soul, the confidence of the mind, and the service of the life." Charles Simeon*
3. Where the heart is \_\_\_\_\_, everything else will \_\_\_\_\_  
*"To take our hearts and give them up to God is the wisest thing that we can do." Charles Spurgeon*
4. Our hearts can never be \_\_\_\_\_ until they're \_\_\_\_\_ of God  
*"God has... planted eternity in the human heart." Eccl. 3:11*  
*"His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us. For in him we live and move and exist." Acts 17:27-28*