

II. Addendum: The Character of the Wise

A. Humility: a fundamental docility (“teachableness”) to God’s intention for human life; a susceptibility to discover God’s wisdom through observation and instruction; a willingness to receive correction so as to return to the way of wisdom and righteousness.

Prov 12:1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.

Prov 22:4 The reward for humility and fear of the Lord is riches and honor and life.

Prov 27:1 Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth. 2 Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.

B. Perseverance/Diligence: dedication to one’s responsibilities in life will lead to a fruitful outcome.

Prov 12:24 The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor.

Prov 13:11 Wealth hastily gotten will dwindle, but he who gathers little by little will increase it.

Prov 14:23 In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to want.

C. Prudence: the knowledge of what to do at the appropriate time; gained by experience and practical discernment; includes the capacity for foresight; especially valued in speech.

Prov 14:8 The wisdom of a prudent man is to discern his way, but the folly of fools is deceiving.

Prov 27:12 A prudent man sees danger and hides himself; but the simple go on, and suffer for it.

Prov 12:16 The vexation of a fool is known at once, but the prudent man ignores an insult.

D. Self-control: the ability to submit one’s passions to the control of reason.

Prov 15:18 A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger quiets contention. (cf. God’s character in Ex 34:6-7)

Prov 16:32 He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.

Prov 15:1 A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

E. Integrity: honest self-evaluation that leads to congruence between one's inner attitudes and outward behavior.

Prov 11:3 The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the wicked destroys them.

Prov 19:1 Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than a man who is perverse in speech, and is a fool.

Prov 20:7 A righteous man who walks in his integrity – blessed are his sons after him!

F. Loyalty/faithfulness in relationships: the reflection of God's character (steadfast love and faithfulness; see Ex 34:6) in human relationships.

Prov 16:6 By loyalty and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the LORD a man avoids evil.

Prov 17:17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Prov 18:24 There are friends who pretend to be friends, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

G. Generosity, especially to the poor:

Prov 19:17 He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed.

Prov 21:13 He who closes his ear to the cry of the poor will himself cry out and not be heard.

Prov 22:9 He who has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor.