



Sermon Discussion Questions

“God’s Wisdom for Society: Government, Family, Commerce, and Stewardship” (Proverbs 20:1-22:16)

– November 16th, 2025

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Sermon Overview

Main Idea

Proverbs doesn’t just give us wisdom for a few private aspects of life—it gives us wisdom to shape our lives and society. **We see God’s wisdom for living as faithful witnesses in four spheres of society – government, family, commerce, and stewardship.** All four spheres are important to a healthy society, and God gives us wisdom for pursuing this.

Sermon Outline

1. Sphere 1: Government (Prov. 20:2, 8, 18, 26, 28; 21:1)
2. Sphere 2: Family (Prov. 20:7, 20; 21:9, 19; 22:6, 15)
3. Sphere 3: Commerce (Prov. 20:10–17)
4. Sphere 4: Stewardship (Prov. 20:4, 13; 21:5, 13, 17, 20, 25–26; 22:2, 9, 16)

Quotation(s)

“My people’s greatest need is my personal holiness.” - Robert Murray M’Cheyne regarding what a church needs from a pastor

Discussion Questions

Initial Engagement

- What is the main idea of the text, or what did the sermon focus on?
- What insight from the text or sermon stood out to you most, and why?

Deeper Reflection

1. What are some ways government punishes/judges evil conduct? What are some ways government approves/promotes good conduct? In what areas does it need the most improvement (or is maybe backwards)? Can you think of some practical ways to incentivize good conduct rather than evil?
2. In order to promote good conduct rather than evil, we must first know and define both, using God’s standards. How does your family cultivate knowing the difference between good and evil? How can we partner with other like-minded believers in developing this wisdom of good and evil? How does it look different when we interact with families that aren’t aligned with defining good and evil in the same way?



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3. Read the quotation above from Robert Murray M'Cheyne. Integrity is the greatest legacy you can leave to your children. What legacy did your parents (or someone who helped raised you) leave? If your kids (or those closest to you) were asked what legacy you are leaving, what would they say? What is the legacy you would want them to say? Many times, integrity is defined as, "what you do when someone isn't watching." If this is true, how do we stay accountable to one another?
4. The last two spheres are regarding commerce and stewardship. Can you think of a time when you transacted in a way that was not as fully transparent as it should have been? What would you have done differently? Name a time you went above and beyond what a normal transaction called for. What was the outcome?

Final Response

- What is one thing you want to remember or one way you hope to change in light of this sermon or discussion?