

Navigating Life's Conflict (*The 30 Sayings of the Wise*)

Listen. Learn. Lean. That's Solomon's advice for applying *The 30 Sayings of the Wise* to our conflict. *Listen* to the sayings by opening our hearts (Prov. 22:17). *Learn* these 30 wise words so that we can recall and speak them when conflict arises (Prov. 22:17-18). *Lean* on God, not ourselves or the sayings (Prov. 22:19). If we *listen*, *learn*, and *lean* on God, then we will have knowledge, good advice, truth, and answers for our challenges, moving us through life's conflict toward community (Prov. 22:20-21).

Join us on a journey through wisdom's chartered waters as we examine thirty navigational beacons to help us travel safely through life's seven seas: (1) finances, (2) friends, (3) faith, (4) failure, (5) family, (6) fools, and (7) future.

Finances

We are called by God to wisely steward our capital resources. *The 30 Sayings of the Wise* surfaces five pearls to help us navigate through life's financial conflict. Left unchecked, this handful of gems can become a quintuplet of anchors that will drown us in a sea of debt. Solomon's selections address litigation, debt, integrity, wealth, and the poor.

Saying 1: Poverty Police (Prov. 22:22-23)

Saying 3: Borrow Barrier (Prov. 22:26-27)

Saying 4: Sanctified Survey (Prov. 22:28)

Saying 7: Riches to Rags (Prov. 23:4-5)

Saying 10: Lawful Landmarks (Prov. 23:10-11)

Friends

It has been said that the most influential people in our lives are our friends. Perhaps that's why *The 30 Sayings of the Wise* includes a description of four friends that we should avoid making: the hot tempered, slothful, troublemaker, and rebellious.

Saying 2: Anger Danger (Prov. 22:24-25)

Saying 15: Slothful Man (Prov. 23:19-21)

Saying 19: Bad Company (Prov. 24:1-2)

Saying 30: Resist Rebels (Prov. 24:21-22)

Faith

Wisdom applies our faith to our circumstances, literally sticking God's character to our challenges. *The 30 Sayings of the Wise* combines God's heart with street smarts addressing our: work ethic, self-control, speech, and motives as we connect our vertical commitment with our horizontal conflict.

Saying 5: Hard Work Helps (Prov. 22:29)

Saying 6: Bribe Tribe (Prov. 23:1-3)

Saying 13: Common Sense Counts (Prov. 23:15-16)

Saying 25: Warn the Unwary (Prov. 24:11-12)

Failure

Failure might not be final, but ignored, it can be fatal. *The 30 Sayings of the Wise* describes four pitfalls that can kill: lies, sexual misconduct, addiction, and distress.

Saying 8: Chameleon Complex (Prov. 23:6-8)

Saying 17: Wayward Women (Prov. 23:26-28)

Saying 18: Drunken Dodo (Prov. 23:29-35)

Saying 24: Pressure Pusher (Prov. 24:10)

Family

Family is the ultimate picture of God's love. The Apostle Paul teaches that family derives its name from the Father. In *The 30 Sayings of the Wise*, Solomon offers four pillars to construct a firm foundation for a God-honoring, loving home: learning, disciplining children, honoring parents, and building connections.

Saying 11: Receive Reproof (Prov. 23:12)

Saying 12: Disciple Discipline (Prov. 23:13-14)

Saying 16: Secret Agents (Prov. 23:22-25)

Saying 20: House of Leadership (Prov. 24:3-4)

Fools

The antithesis of a wise person is a fool. *The 30 Sayings of the Wise* includes five concepts that both prepare us for dealing with a fool and help us not to become one. They include: reasoning with a fool, instructing a fool, scheming, stealing, and gloating.

Saying 9: Wisdom Wasted (Prov. 23:9)

Saying 22: Rebel Rascals (Prov. 24:7)

Saying 23: Slippery Schemer (Prov. 24:8-9)

Saying 27: Bounce Back (Prov. 24:15-16)

Saying 28: Weep Over Others' Woes (Prov. 24:17-18)

Future

Everybody desires hope, a confident assurance regarding the future. That hope comes exclusively from God. *The 30 Sayings of the Wise* offers four practical ways for us to experience God's hope on this side of heaven: don't envy sinful people, seek wise counsel, get wisdom—fuel for the soul, and don't worry about the wicked.

Saying 14:	Envy Evil Error	(Prov. 23:17-18)
Saying 21:	Wise Words Win Wars	(Prov. 24:5-6)
Saying 26:	Sweet Success	(Prov. 24:13-14)
Saying 29:	Wicked Worry	(Prov. 24:19-20)