

The Wise Man According to Proverbs: An Outline

His Character

He Is Teachable, Not Intractable

- He receives and loves instruction (18:15;19:20)
- He grows in wisdom (1:5;9:9;10:14)

He Is Righteous, Not Wicked

- He fears the Lord (1:7; 14:16)
- He hates what is false (13:5)
- He shuns evil (3:7;14:16;16:6)
- He does what is righteous (2:20)
- He speaks the truth (22:21)
- He Is Humble, Not Proud (15:33)

He Is Self-controlled, Not Rash

- His temperament
 - He is self-controlled (29:11)
 - He has a calm spirit (17:27)
 - He is slow to become angry (29:8,11)
- His actions
 - He is cautious, not hasty (19:2)
 - He thinks before he acts (13:16; 14:8)
 - He thinks before he speaks (12:23; 15:2)

He Is Forgiving, Not Vindictive

- He is patient (19:11)
- He is concerned about goodwill/peace (14:9)
- He forgives those who wrong him (10:12;17:9)
- He is not vindictive (20:22;24:29)

His Relationships

To the Lord

- He fears the Lord (9:10;14:16;15:33)
- He trusts in the Lord (3:5;16:3,20)
- He is ever mindful of the Lord (3:6)
- He chooses the Lord's way/wisdom (8:10-11;17:24)
- He submits to the Lord's discipline (1:2-3;3:11)
- He confesses his sin (28:13)

To His Family

- To his parents
 - Respects them (17:6; contrast 30:17)
 - Listens to them (23:22; cf. 1:8; 4:1)
 - Seeks to bring them honor and joy
 - By being wise (10:1;15:20;29:3)
 - By being righteous (23:24)
 - By being diligent (10:5)
- To his wife
 - He appreciates her
 - As a gift from the Lord (18:22;19:14)
 - As his crowning glory (12:4;31:10-31)
 - He praises her (31:28)
 - He trusts her (31:11)
 - He is faithful to her (5:15-20)
- To his children
 - He loves them (3:12;13:24)
 - He is concerned about them (1:8-9:18)
 - He trains them (22:6)
 - Reasons for training them
 - Own peace of mind and joy (29:17)
 - Child's honor and well-being (1:8-9;4:9;19:18;23:13-14)
 - By teaching/instructing them (1:10; chs. 5-7; 28:7; cf. 4:1-9)
 - By disciplining them
 - By verbal correction (13:1)
 - By physical discipline (13:24;23:13-14)

- He provides for their
 - Physical needs (21:20;27:23-27)
 - Spiritual heritage (14:26;20:7)

To His Friends and Neighbors

- To his friends
 - He values them (27:10)
 - He is constant to them (17:17; 18:24)
 - He gives them counsel (27:9,17; cf. 27:6; 28:23)
- To his neighbors
 - He fulfills his obligations (3:27-28)
 - He strives for peace (3:29-30)
 - He does not outstay his welcome (25:17)
 - He does not deceive or mislead them (16:29;26:18-19)

His Words

- The Power of His Words
 - Their power
 - The power of life and death (12:6;13:14;15:4;18:21)
 - The power to heal or to wound (11:9,11;12:18;15:4,30;16:24)
 - Their limitation
 - No substitute for deeds (14:23)
 - Cannot alter the facts (26:23-26)
 - Cannot compel response (29:19)
- The Character of His Words
 - They are honest, not false (12:22;16:13)
 - They are few, not many (10:19)
 - Not boastful (27:2)
 - Not argumentative (17:14)
 - Not contentious (29:9)
 - Not a gossip
 - Revealing secrets (11:13;20:19)
 - Spreading slander (10:18;26:20-22)

- They are calm, not emotional
 - Rational (15:28;17:27)
 - Gentle and peaceable (15:1,18)
 - Yet persuasive (25:15)
- They are apt, not untimely (15:23;25:11)
- The Source of His Words
 - His heart/character (compare 4:23 with Mt 12:33-35)
 - Positively, he is righteous (10:11;13:14)
 - Negatively, he is not
 - Proud (13:10;6:16-19)
 - Hateful (26:24,28)
 - His companions (13:20;27:17)
 - Reflections (15:28)

From the NIV Study Bible, Introductions to the Books of the Bible, Proverbs
 Copyright 2002 © Zondervan. All rights reserved. Used with permission.