

## Walking in the Ways of the Lord, or Not

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*Proverbs 16:1* The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.

• Walking in the way of the LORD influences our speech

Proverbs 16:2 All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirit.

• Walking in the way of the LORD includes obedience AND a right heart.

Proverbs 16:3 Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established.

• Walking in the way of the Lord means I commit my work and continue in faith.

*Proverbs 16:4* The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.

Jeremiah 18:1-10 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: **2** "Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message." **3** So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. **4** But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. **5** Then the word of the LORD came to me. **6** He said, "Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?" declares the LORD. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel. **7** If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, **8** and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. **9** And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be up we, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it.

• The Lord is sovereign over His creation; He will use both the righteous and the wicked to accomplish His purposes.

*Proverbs 16:5* Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the LORD; be assured, he will not go unpunished.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11a (ESV) Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, **10** nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. **11a** And such were some of you.

Proverbs 16:6 By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the LORD

one turns away from evil.

1 Corinthians 6:11 (ESV) And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

*Proverbs 16:7* When a man's ways please the LORD, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

1 Thessalonians 4:10b-12 (ESV) But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, **11** and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, **12** so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

Proverbs 16:8 Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice.

• Walking in the way of the Lord is best, with or without money.

Proverbs 16:9 The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.

• Walking in the way of the Lord: I make a plan, entrust it to the Lord, step out in faith, and allow the Lord to direct (or re-direct) my steps

Proverbs 16:10 An oracle is on the lips of a king; his mouth does not sin in judgment.

• The One in authority has the right to judge

Proverbs 16:11 A just balance and scales are the LORD's; all the weights in the bag are his work.

• The One in authority will administer perfect justice

*Proverbs 16:12* It is an abomination to kings to do evil, for the throne is established by righteousness.

• The One in authority delegates His authority to rulers and governments

*Romans 13:1 (ESV)* Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

Proverbs 16:13 Righteous lips are the delight of a king, and he loves him who speaks what is right.

Matthew 10:18-20 (ESV) and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. **19** When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. **20** For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

Proverbs 16:14 A king's wrath is a messenger of death, and a wise man will appease it.

Romans 13:2-6 (ESV) Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. **3** For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, **4** for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. **5** Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. **6** For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing.

Proverbs 16:15-20 In the light of a king's face there is life, and his favor is like the clouds that bring the spring rain. **16** How much better to get wisdom than gold! To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver. **17** The highway of the upright turns aside from evil; whoever guards his way preserves his life.**18** Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. **19** It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor than to divide the spoil with the proud. **20** Whoever gives thought to the word will discover good, and blessed is he who trusts in the LORD.

*Psalm 1:1-2* Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; **2** but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

*Proverbs* 16:21-22 The wise of heart is called discerning, and sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness. **22** Good sense is a fountain of life to him who has it, but the instruction of fools is folly.

Psalm 14:1a The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

*Proverbs* 16:23 The heart of the wise makes his speech judicious (or NASB "instructs his mouth") and adds persuasiveness to his lips.

Matthew 12:34 (ESV) You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

James 3:8 (ESV) but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

Colossians 3:16 (ESV) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

*Proverbs* 16:24 *Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.* 

1 Corinthians 14:1-3 Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy. **2** For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit. **3** But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort.

Acts 15:32 Judas and Silas, who themselves were prophets, said much to encourage and strengthen the believers.

Proverbs 16:25 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

Matthew 7:13-14 (ESV) "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. **14** For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

Proverbs 16:26 A worker's appetite works for him; his mouth urges him on.

2 Thessalonians 3:7-10 (ESV) For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, **8** nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. **9** It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. **10** For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.

Leviticus 19:9-10 (ESV) When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. **10** And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God.

Proverbs 16:27-28 A worthless man plots evil, and his speech is like a scorching fire. **28** A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends.

Proverbs 18:8 The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts.

*Proverbs* 17:9 Whoever would foster love covers over an offense, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.

Romans 1:29-32 (ESV) They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, **30** slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, **31** foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. **32** Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

*Titus 3:10-11* Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. **11** You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned.

Proverbs 16:29-31 A man of violence entices his neighbor and leads him in a way that is not good. 30 Whoever winks his eyes plans dishonest things; he who purses his lips brings evil to pass. **31** Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life.

1 Timothy 5:1-2 (ESV) Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, **2** older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.

Titus 2:2-4 (ESV) Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. **3** Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, **4** and so train the young women to love their husbands and children,

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

Titus 2:4-6 (ESV) and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-

controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. **6** Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled.

Proverbs 16:33 The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.

• Call **321.574.6970** if you have chosen to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

All Bible references are from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted. NLT = New Living Translation.