

DON'T SWEEP IT UNDER THE RUG

TEXT: (Proverbs 24:23-26, NIV)

²³ These also are sayings of the wise: Partiality in judging is not good. ²⁴ Whoever says to the wicked, "You are innocent," will be cursed by peoples, abhorred by nations; ²⁵ but those who rebuke the wicked will have delight, and a good blessing will come upon them. ²⁶ One who gives an honest answer gives a kiss on the lips.

I. GOD IS A JUST JUDGE

1. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad" (II Corinthians 5:10, NIV).

A. He Will Judge According to Truth

1. "Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another" (Romans 1:24, NIV).
2. "Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones" (Romans 1:26, NIV).
3. "Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done" (Romans 1:28, NIV).
4. "Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them" (Romans 1:32, NIV).
5. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23, KJV).
6. "Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth" (Romans 2:2, NIV).

B. He Will Judge According to Works

1. "God 'will give to each person according to what he has done'" (Romans 2:6, NIV).
2. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21, NIV).
3. "To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life" (Romans 2:7, NIV).
4. "For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God" (Ephesians 5:5, NIV).

C. God's Judgment Is Just

1. "Then Peter opened his mouth and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him" (Acts 10:34-35, KJV).
2. "He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his truth" (Psalm 96:13, NIV).
3. "For God does not show favoritism" (Romans 2:11, NIV).

II. NO PARTIALITY IN JUDGING

1. "Partiality in judging is not good" (Proverbs 24:23, NIV).

A. Should Christians Judge Others?

1. "Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly" (John 7:24, NIV).
2. "Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong. When you give testimony in a lawsuit, do not pervert justice by siding with the crowd, and do not show favoritism to a poor person in a lawsuit" (Exodus 23:2-3, NIV).
3. "It is not good to be partial to the wicked and so deprive the innocent of justice" (Proverbs 18:5, NIV).

B. How to Judge Righteously

1. "Do not show partiality in judging; hear both small and great alike. Do not be afraid of anyone, for judgment belongs to God" (Deuteronomy 1:17, NIV).
2. "Appoint judges and officials for each of your tribes in every town the Lord your God is giving you, and they shall judge the people fairly. Do not pervert justice or show partiality. Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the innocent. Follow justice and justice alone, so that you may live and possess the land the Lord your God is giving you" (Deuteronomy 16:18-20, NIV).
3. "Now let the fear of the LORD be on you. Judge carefully, for with the LORD our God there is no injustice or partiality or bribery" (II Chronicles 19:7, NIV).
4. "My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism" (James 2:1, NIV).

C. Rebuke the Offender

1. "Whoever says to the wicked, 'You are innocent,' will be cursed by peoples, abhorred by nations; but those who rebuke the wicked will have delight, and a good blessing will come upon them" (Proverbs 24:24-25, NIV).
2. "Be alert. If you see your friend going wrong, correct him. If he responds, forgive him" (Luke 17:3, MSG).
3. "Go easy on those who hesitate in the faith. Go after those who take the wrong way. Be tender with sinners, but not soft on sin. The sin itself stinks to high heaven" (Jude 1:22-23, MSG).
4. "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector" (Matthew 18:15-17, NIV).

III. IN THE HOME

1. "When you give testimony in a lawsuit, do not pervert justice by siding with the crowd, and do not show favoritism to a poor person in a lawsuit" (Exodus 23:2-3, NIV).

A. The Seriousness of Childrearing

1. "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth" (III John 1:4, NIV).
2. "Her children arise and call her blessed" (Proverbs 31:28, NIV)

B. Must Raise Children God's Way

1. "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:6, NIV).
2. "Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death" (Proverbs 23:13-14, NIV).
3. "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying" (Proverbs 19:18, KJV).
4. "A child left to himself disgraces his mother" (Proverbs 29:15, NIV).
5. "He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him" (Proverbs 13:24, NIV).

C. Building a Just Home

1. "Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain" (Psalm 127:1, NIV).
2. "But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15, NIV).
3. "One who gives an honest answer gives a kiss on the lips" (Proverbs 24:26, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. "Because I consider all your precepts right, I hate every wrong path" (Psalm 119:128, NIV).
2. "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life" (Psalm 139:23-24, NLT).