

MODERATION

TEXT: (Proverbs 25:27, KJV)

²⁷ *It is not good to eat much honey: so for men to search their own glory is not glory.*

INTRODUCTION

1. “Just as it is harmful to eat too much honey, so also it is bad for men to think about all the honors they deserve!” (Proverbs 25:27, TLB).
2. “Don’t work yourself into the spotlight; don’t push your way into the place of prominence. It’s better to be promoted to a place of honor than face humiliation by being demoted” (Proverbs 25:6-7, MSG).

I. MODERATION—A CHARACTERISTIC OF MATURITY

1. Let your moderation be known unto all men” (Philippians 4:5, KJV).

A. Balance

1. “If you sit down to eat with a ruler, notice the food that is in front of you. Control yourself if you have a big appetite. Don’t be greedy for his fine foods” (Proverbs 23:1-3, NCV).

B. Gluttony and the Temple of the Holy Ghost

1. “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies” (I Corinthians 6:19-20, NIV).

C. Laying Aside Every Weight

1. “Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*” (Hebrews 12:1, KJV).
2. “Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles” (Hebrews 12:1, NIV).
3. “Let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up” (Hebrews 12:1, NLT).
4. “We should remove from our lives anything that would get in the way and the sin that so easily holds us back” (Hebrews 12:1, NCV).
5. “Strip down, start running—and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on *Jesus*, who both began and finished this race we’re in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed” (Hebrews 12:1-2, MSG).
6. “And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things” (I Corinthians 9:25, KJV).
7. “To win the contest you must deny yourselves many things that would keep you from doing your best” (I Corinthians 9:25, TLB).

II. SELF-CONTROL—MODERATION IN ACTION

1. “But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people” (II Timothy 3:1-5, NIV).

A. Respect Boundaries and Standards

1. "Do not move an ancient boundary stone set up by your ancestors" (Proverbs 22:28, ESV).
2. "Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, *when* it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder" (Proverbs 23:31-32, KJV).

B. Can't Never Accomplished Anything

1. "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death" (Romans 8:2, KJV).
2. "I can do all this through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13, NIV).

C. Remember Lot's Wife

1. "Remember Lot's wife" (Luke 17:32, KJV).

III. HUMBLY ACCEPTING A COMPLIMENT

1. "*It is* not good to eat much honey: so *for men* to search their own glory *is not* glory" (Proverbs 25:27, KJV).
2. "Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor" (Romans 13:7, NIV).

A. Express Thanks for the Compliment

1. "Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat its grapes? Who tends a flock and does not drink the milk? Do I say this merely on human authority? Doesn't the Law say the same thing? For it is written in the Law of Moses: 'Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.' Is it about oxen that God is concerned? Surely he says this for us, doesn't he? Yes, this was written for us, because whoever plows and threshes should be able to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest. If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you?" (1 Corinthians 9:7-11, NIV).

B. Express Your Joy in Serving God

1. "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving" (Colossians 3:23-24, NIV).

C. Give God Glory

1. "In fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be" (1 Corinthians 12:18, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. "When pride comes [boiling up with an arrogant attitude of self-importance], then come dishonor and shame, but with the humble [the teachable who have been chiseled by trial and who have learned to walk humbly with God] there is wisdom and soundness of mind" (Proverbs 11:2, AMP)
2. "The more lowly your service to others, the greater you are. To be the greatest, be a servant. But those who think themselves great shall be disappointed and humbled; and those who humble themselves shall be exalted." (Matthew 23:11-12, TLB).