

A Practical Example from Proverbs

Proverbs 3:27-28

Proverbs is for *children*.

- Especially Proverbs 1-9, which has plenty of this: "My son..." (Prov 3:21)
- It's also for us, for everyone... More on that later.

Let's read Proverbs 3:21-35, but we will focus on verses 27-28 for one practical example today:

27 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due,
when it is in your power to do it.

28 Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come again,
tomorrow I will give it"—when you have it with you. (Proverbs 3:27-28)

Scenario #1: A 14 yr old boy

A reflection on what Proverbs *values*, versus our Gold-Silver-Bronze values for our children.

Scenario #2: A 10 yr old boy

What about the gospel?

- Consider Jesus' words in Matthew 5:25-26: "Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court... Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny."
 - Words of *owing* something. Obligation. Similar to Proverbs 3:27-28.
 - This isn't the gospel, but it is necessary to understand the gospel: Jesus paid a debt that we owe!
- Watch the wonderful EE-TAOW movie, and note how the missionary did not start with the gospel! (<https://vimeo.com/252229400>) Other things need to be taught, too, and sometimes *first*.

Questions for Reflection and Application:

1. Read Proverbs 3:21-35. What kind of things does the father teach his son? How would you generalize or summarize it?
2. Concentrate on verses 27-28. What do you "owe" someone, whether financial or not? Is it in your power to pay it now? Pray and act.
3. What American values are conveyed in how and what our society teaches children? Name one good thing and one bad thing.