

## “Pleasing God” - Proverbs 15:33-16:11

Ask - “As a kid, who did you want to please most and why?”

Background - The Proverbs cover an array of issues, and can often seem disconnected and disjointed. They are not arranged by topic and bounce from one subject to another. While this might be confusing to the reader, there is still much wisdom contained therein. We just have to sort it out.

“The Ways of a Man” - Proverbs 15:33-16:3

(v33) As stated previously in Proverbs, what is the foundational instruction of wisdom? How are the fear of God and humility related? Discuss.

(v1-2) How do these verses describe the plans of a man? How does God evaluate and respond to a man’s plans?

(v3) What should someone do with their plans and works? What happens when these are committed to the LORD? What does the proverb mean by saying they will be “established” (*they will be settled and no cause for worry*)?

WISDOM BEGINS IN HUMBLE SUBMISSION TO AND FEAR OF GOD. A MAN PLANS TO DO CERTAIN THINGS, BUT ONLY GOD KNOWS FOR CERTAIN WHAT WILL OCCUR.

“Ways That Please the LORD” - Proverbs 16:4-7

(v4) Has God created anything without a purpose? Brainstorm several things and identify their purpose(s). What is the purpose of “the wicked”?

(v5-6) Compare these 2 verses with the 2 phrases in Proverbs 15:33 from earlier. Which verse most closely aligns with which phrase. Explain and discuss.

(v7) What benefit comes to those who walk in a pleasing manner before God? In your experience, have you seen this to be true? How so?

GOD HAS GIVEN EVERYTHING A PURPOSE. HE PUNISHES THE PROUD, LOVINGLY FORGIVES INIQUITY, A PROTECTS THOSE WHO FEAR HIM. HE GIVES PEACE TO THOSE WHO WALK IN A PLEASING MANNER.

“The Way to Handle Money” - Proverbs 16:8-11

(v8-9) What is more important - wealth or righteousness? Defend your answer. How is verse 9 similar to verses 1-3? Explain.

(v10) Why is it that a king's decision should be wise and upright? How do the decisions of leaders impact a nation, organization, or group?

(v11) Why is God concerned about our honesty and integrity in business and commerce? Have you ever cheated someone or been cheated by someone out of money?

IT IS BETTER TO BE UPRIGHT AND HONEST THAN TO BE RICH. MONEY IS IMPORTANT, BUT WE MUST ALWAYS PRACTICE INTEGRITY AND RIGHTEOUSNESS IN OUR DEALINGS.

Application - God wants us to live in ways that are pleasing to him. As we make our plans, we should pray about them and seek to follow the LORD's will. We should commit our works to God. In our business dealings, we should always be open and honest. By living in a manner that pleases God, we will enjoy peace and tranquility. Is your life pleasing to God? Are there parts of it that may not be? Ask the LORD to reveal anything in your life that displeases Him.