

Studies in the Book of Proverbs by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

(#10) Wisdom's 2 Simple Rules for Life 3:27-35

Verses 27-30: How to "Love Your Neighbor."

Verse 27: "Due" is the operative word. This refers to what is owed, whether something purchased, work hired, or payment promised. Moses' Law required this: "You shall not cheat your neighbor, nor rob him. The wages of him who is hired shall not remain with you all night until morning" ([Leviticus 19:13](#); [Deuteronomy 24:14-15](#)).

The wisdom of Solomon required this: "When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; For *He has* no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed- Better not to vow than to vow and not pay. Do not let your mouth cause your flesh to sin, nor say before the messenger of *God* that it *was* an error. Why should God be angry at your excuse and destroy the work of your hands?" ([Ecclesiastes 5:4-6](#))

First Century Jews had long since lost this practice: "Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth" ([James 5:4](#)). It is not wrong to buy on credit, but it is wrong to not pay when you can and should!

Verse 28: Delaying promised assistance to one's neighbor is an evil exercise that frustrates mercy. "But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?" ([1 John 3:17](#)).

Verse 29: It's bad enough to frustrate mercy to a neighbor in need, but to "devise evil" takes this to a newer, lower level of indecency! The word "neighbor" literally describes the ones closer to us than the rest of the world, and they probably have chosen our "safety" for neighborhood. This is a main missing ingredient in "the hood," for neighbors should be able to rely upon each other for "safety" when police cannot always be there. "Neighborhood Watches" should be the order of the day everywhere.

Verse 30: In our litigious society, this must be re-instated! It is easy to ignore this rule of "neighborliness" when TV commercials are creating band wagonloads of people wanting to "sue" someone for something. Lawsuits should be limited to "harm done," not in order to establish some "harm done!"



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Verses 31-35: How to NOT Get “Suckered Into the Wrong Crowd!”

Verses 31-32: Don’t envy them. “The oppressor” who sues for no other reason than greed and who “devises evil” against neighbors shows a tyrant stripe wide enough to be seen! He/she/they should not be “envied” (desire what they obtain) because what they are doing is “perverse” and an “abomination to the LORD.” This unyielding damnation on their “oppression” should show this as a wrong path for the righteous. We may not see that God meets with the righteous, not oppressors!

Verses 33-35: Accept God’s Awaiting Judgments. God curses the “house of the wicked,” but “blesses the home of the just,” that is, He will not bless those whose will is to be wicked, and He will bless those who seek to do right.

Verse 34 is quoted in [James 4:6](#) and [1 Peter 5:5](#) as: “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble” and in both passages this is a reason to “be humble.” Do not count “the legacy of fools” by their money, influence, power, glory, murders, conquests, but by their standing before Almighty God!

