

Unit 1

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The Virtues of Wisdom

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The unit test is bound into the center of this book. It should be removed before giving the book to the student.

Unit 1—The Virtues of Wisdom

Lesson 1—Why Christian Ethics?

pages 1-4

- Students will be able to explain the importance of rules and guidance.
- Students will be able to describe situational ethics and utilitarian ethics and contrast them with Christian ethics.
- Students will be able to demonstrate that God and the Bible give valid direction for life instead of man’s own understanding.

Stretch your vocabulary

Read these verses in “Paths and Ways of Man” (pages 271-275). Then circle the letter of the answer that best defines each word as it is used in the verse.

1. Proverbs 14:2—*perverse*
 - a. going in reverse
 - b. contrary, headstrong
 - c. delinquent in manners
2. Proverbs 15:9—*abomination*
 - a. hateful happening
 - b. shamefully vile thing
 - c. poison
3. Proverbs 15:9—*followeth after*
 - a. tags along
 - b. wants a little
 - c. pursues, chases
4. Proverbs 16:2—*clean*
 - a. pure, right
 - b. washed
 - c. not dirty
5. Proverbs 16:31—*hoary*
 - a. old and feeble
 - b. bald
 - c. gray haired
6. Proverbs 17:23—*gift*
 - a. bribe
 - b. donation
 - c. sign of friendship
7. Proverbs 21:2—*pondereth*
 - a. meditates and studies
 - b. decides
 - c. weighs and tries
8. Proverbs 21:29—*hardeneth his face*
 - a. is bold and unfeeling
 - b. is stubbornly disobedient
 - c. gets worry-lined
9. Proverbs 22:24—*thou shalt not go*
 - a. don’t follow after
 - b. don’t associate with
 - c. stay home

Read

Read Chapter 1: “Why Christian Ethics” (pages 1-4).

Review

Answer these questions.

10. Why are rules and guidance so vital? _____

11. In the school parable, how did the teacher handle his pupils' problems? _____

12. How does situational ethics ultimately decide what is the right course of action?

13. How does utilitarian ethics decide what is good or bad behavior? _____

14. What are two problematic assumptions utilitarian thinking makes? _____

15. What is the assumption of the person who disobeys God? _____

16. What is the definition of Christian ethics? _____

17. Which Old Testament book gives many principles for Christian ethics? _____

Think

18. In a few sentences, explain how Proverbs 14:12 and 16:25 relate to the thinking of situational and utilitarian ethics.

19. a. What does Proverbs 20:24 indicate about man's understanding?

b. Compare Proverbs 18:4. What is necessary to have an understanding of one's way?

20. In your own words, describe the content of Jeremiah's prayer in Jeremiah 10:23, 24.

Read Romans 1:20-32. These verses describe people who decide their own course and ignore God's ethics. Write at least one example of each sin in today's world.

21. a. Not giving God the proper glory He deserves (21) _____

b. Unthankfulness (21) _____

c. Pride in human knowledge and wisdom (22) _____

d. Worship of other gods and of idols (23) _____

e. Immorality (24) _____

f. Placing more importance on nature than on the God who made nature (25) _____

g. Utterly vile in thought and action (26-32) _____

Do these exercises.

22. Tell what the key to becoming wise is according to Proverbs 19:20, 21. _____

23. In a short paragraph of three to five sentences, compare and contrast situational ethics and utilitarianism with Christian ethics.

- Students will be able to classify the Book of Proverbs.
- Students will be able to explain the benefits of studying the Book of Proverbs.
- Students will be able to list three types of parallelism in Proverbs and give an example of each type.

Stretch your vocabulary

Read these verses in “Paths and Ways of Man” (pages 271-275). Then circle the letter of the answer that best defines each word as it is used in the verse.

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| <p>1. Proverbs 2:8—<i>keepeth</i></p> <p>a. puts away</p> <p>b. guards</p> <p>c. takes away</p> | <p>5. Proverbs 4:26—<i>ponder</i></p> <p>a. consider well</p> <p>b. decide against</p> <p>c. meditate in quietness</p> |
| <p>2. Proverbs 2:9—<i>equity</i></p> <p>a. fair dealing</p> <p>b. investment</p> <p>c. property</p> | <p>6. Proverbs 8:22—<i>possessed</i></p> <p>a. dwelt within</p> <p>b. created, owned</p> <p>c. bought</p> |
| <p>3. Proverbs 3:6—<i>direct</i></p> <p>a. make easy</p> <p>b. make straight and clear</p> <p>c. force to follow</p> | <p>7. Proverbs 11:20—<i>upright</i></p> <p>a. standing up straight</p> <p>b. clean</p> <p>c. blameless</p> |
| <p>4. Proverbs 4:11—<i>way of wisdom</i></p> <p>a. insight into God’s way</p> <p>b. following your conscience</p> <p>c. standard education</p> | <p>8. Proverbs 12:26—<i>seduceth</i></p> <p>a. leads astray</p> <p>b. deflects from the way</p> <p>c. defiles</p> |

Read

Read Chapter 2: “Introducing Proverbs” (pages 5-8).

Review

Do these exercises.

9. What four ways of referring to Proverbs are mentioned in the text?

10. Name the three Bible books that are part of its wisdom literature.

11. Name the three men that the Bible gives as the writers of Proverbs.

12. What is the meaning of the Hebrew word translated *proverb*? _____

13. Name three types of parallelism found in Proverbs.

14. In what way is wisdom often personified in Proverbs?

15. What are three ways of finding or getting wisdom?

Think

Write *synthetic*, *synonymous*, or *antithetic* to describe the type of parallelism.

16. _____ “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold” (22:1).

17. _____ “The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe” (18:10).

18. _____ “Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding” (17:28).