

Leadership, According to Solomon

A STORY OF ONE SCHOOL LEADER'S QUEST FOR WISDOM

by Jan Irons Harris

Proverbs Related to Seven Qualities of Wise Leaders

1. Vision

- Where there is no vision, the people perish. Proverbs 29:18

2. Knowledge

- Pay attention and listen to the sayings of the wise. Proverbs 22:17
- The wise store up knowledge, but the mouth of a fool invites ruin. Proverbs 10:14
- I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion. Proverbs 8:12
- The prudent see danger and take refuge. Proverbs 27:12
- A man who remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed – without remedy. Proverbs 29:1

3. Ethics

- By justice a king gives a country stability, but those who are greedy for bribes tear it down. Proverbs 29:4
- The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: for gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; Proverbs 1:1-3
- The wicked flee though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion. Proverbs 28:1
- To show partiality is not good—yet a person will do wrong for a piece of bread. Proverbs 28:21
- Those who give to the poor will lack nothing, but those who close their eyes to them receive many curses. Proverbs 28:27
- If a king judges the poor with fairness, his throne will be established forever. Proverbs 29:14
- Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy. Proverbs 31: 8-9

4. Humility

- When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom. Proverbs 11:2
- A man's pride will bring him low, but a humble spirit will obtain honor. Proverbs 29:23 NASB
- Do not be wise in your own eyes. Proverbs 3:7
- Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than him. Proverbs 26:12
- Let someone else praise you, and not your own mouth; an outsider, and not your own lips. Proverbs 27:2
- The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but people are tested by their praise. Proverbs 27:21
- Do not exalt yourself in the king's presence, and do not claim a place among great men; It is better for him to say to you, "Come up here," than for him to humiliate you before a nobleman. Proverbs 25:6-7

5. Self-Control

- Anger - A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control. Proverbs 29:11
- Food (gluttony) - Do not join those who drink too much wine, or gorge themselves on meat, for drunkards and gluttons become poor... Proverbs 23:20-21
- Alcohol - ...it is not for kings to drink wine, not for rulers to crave beer, lest they drink and forget what has been decreed, and deprive all the oppressed of their rights. Proverbs 31:4-5
- Work ethic - Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth. Proverbs 10:4
A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—and poverty will come on you like a thief... Proverbs 24:33-34
- Sexual behavior - ...a man who commits adultery lacks judgment. Proverbs 6:32
- Stability - If you fall to pieces in a crisis, there wasn't much to you in the first place. Proverbs 24:10 MSG
- Answering a Foolish Person - Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you will be like him yourself. Proverbs 26:4
- Patience - A person's wisdom yields patience... Proverbs 19:11
Better a patient man than a warrior, a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city. Proverbs 16:32
- Not easily offended - ... it is to one's glory to overlook an offense. Proverbs 19:11
- Choosing friends - Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared. Proverbs 22:24-25

6. Counsel

- Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisors they succeed. Proverbs 15:22
- Wounds from a friend can be trusted. Proverbs 27:6
- An honest answer is like a kiss on the lips. Proverbs 24:26
- He who ignores discipline comes to poverty and shame, but whoever heeds correction is honored. Proverbs 13:8
- As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17
- ...wisdom is found in those who take advice. Proverbs 13:10
- A fool spurns his father's discipline, but who ever heeds correction shows prudence. Proverbs 15:5
- Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge; but he who hates correction is stupid. Proverbs 12:1
- It is better to heed a wise man's rebuke than to listen to a song of fools. Ecclesiastes 7:5
- For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers. Proverbs 11:14
- The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice. Proverbs 12:15

7. Understanding

- Be sure you know the condition of your flocks... Proverbs 27:23

Self-Control

- A hot-tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man calms a quarrel. Proverbs 15:18
- A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense. Proverbs 19:11

Careful Use of Words

- Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent. Proverbs 17:28
- A man of knowledge uses words with restraint... Proverbs 17:27
- He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin. Proverbs 13:3
- He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity. Proverbs 21:23
- It is to a man's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel. Proverbs 20:3
- Do you see a man who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for him. Proverbs 29:20:

Flammable Words

- Do not pay attention to every word people say, or you may hear your servant cursing you – for you know in your heart that many times you yourself have cursed others. Ecclesiastes 7: 21-22
- Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down. Proverbs 26:20
- Do not slander a servant to his master, or he will curse you, and you will pay for it. Proverbs 30:10
- A quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping on a rainy day... Proverbs 27:15
- Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife. Proverbs 25:24
- Do you see a man who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for him. Proverbs 29:20
- Do not boast about tomorrow... Proverbs 27:1
- Let someone else praise you, and not your own mouth; an outsider, and not your own lips. Proverbs 27:2

Healing Words

- A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. Proverbs 15:1
- Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act. Proverbs 3:27
- A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. Proverbs 11:25

Equal Time and Attention

- Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house – too much of you, and he will hate you. Proverbs 25:17

No partiality

- Do not gloat when your enemy falls. Proverbs 24:17
To show partiality in judging is not good. Proverbs 24:23
- Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy. Proverbs 31:8-9

Understanding Continued

- He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses. Proverbs 28:27

Pick your battles carefully

- Like one who seizes a dog by the ears is a passer-by who meddles in a quarrel not his own. Proverbs 26:17
- Do not speak to a fool, for he will scorn the wisdom of your words. Proverbs 23:9
Conclusion: The Foolish, The Wicked and The Wise

The Foolish

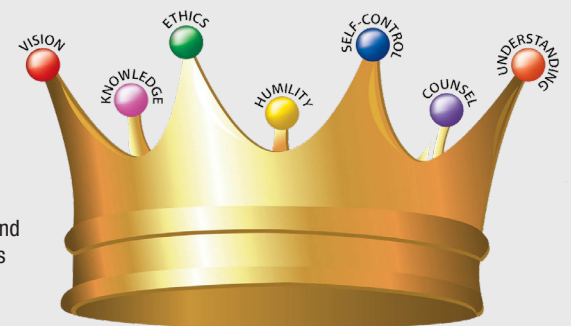
- ...fools despise wisdom and discipline. Proverbs 1:7
10:1
- He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm. Proverbs 13:20
17:16

The Wicked

- The evil deeds of the wicked ensnare them; the cords of their sins hold them fast. For lack of discipline they will die. Proverbs 5:22-23
- A scoundrel plots evil, and on their lips it is like a scorching fire. Proverbs 16:27
- The wicked crave evil; their neighbors get no mercy from them. Proverbs 21:10
- ...for the evildoer has no future hope, and the lamp of the wicked will be snuffed out. Proverbs 24:20
- At the end of your life you will groan, when your flesh and body are spent. you will say, "How I hated discipline! How my heart spurned correction! I would not obey my teachers or turn my ear to my instructors, and I was soon in serious trouble in the assembly of God's people." Proverbs 5:11-14

The Wise

- Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. Esteem her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you. She will set a garland of grace on your head and present you with a crown of splendor. Proverbs 4: 7-9
- Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. Put away perversity from your mouth; keep corrupt talk far from your lips. Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you. Make level paths for your feet and take only ways that are firm. Do not swerve to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil. Proverbs 4: 23-27
- I saw that wisdom is better than folly, just as light is better than darkness. Ecclesiastes 2:13
- The wise man has eyes in his head, while the fool walks in the darkness. Ecclesiastes 2:14



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