

## Proverbs 6:1-19

### ~ My Son... Laziness Kills ~

#### Introduction

When God created the world – He made the world in such a way that it had:

#### A fixed established order

And this fixed path – this **established way** includes what we **often call**:

*The natural order of creation*

So for example, if you put **seed in the ground** during the warmer months of the year – you water that seed – you give it a **little sunshine** it's going to grow!

It's probably going to flourish!

But if you try that during the **colder months** of the year – it's probably **NOT** to work!

If you put your hand into a fire with **no formal protection** – you get burnt!

If you jump off a building without any parachute on – you're going to die!

If you grab a knife and **stick it into** another person's body – they're going to bleed!

This is the way that the world is going to work!

This is the way God created the world!

And this fixed order – this **way the thing works** is what the bible refers to as:

Wisdom!

God's **inbuilt wisdom** into the natural order of creation!

This is what we saw in Proverbs chapter 8 a few weeks ago when we started the series:

God describes the wisdom of this world as His **very first act** of all creation!

Meaning that everything He created **after wisdom** – **accords** with – **aligns** with – and **fits within** this divine order!

### **Moral**

Now on top of this **inescapable fixed/ natural reality** – there is also according to the bible a **moral order** to creation – a **moral order** of the world!

So just as there are **natural consequences** to putting your hand in a fire (or jumping off of a building) – **so too** there are **moral** consequences to our sin!

To being a **liar** – to being a **thief** – a **drunkard** – a **reviler** – and a **violent person**!

Proverbs teaches that **those who steal** will end up getting caught – those **who are lazy** will end up broke – those who **let loose** on their anger will open the door to **all manner** of sin!

This is just the way the world works!

And what we've been learning through the book of Proverbs is that what the bible refers to as God's **natural** and **moral order** – can be better understood as:

God's wisdom on display!

God's wisdom in the world!

His wisdom **includes both** the natural and moral consequences of sin!

## Romans 1

Paul speaks of this in Romans chapter 1 when he speaks of the wrath of God revealed against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth by exchanging their sinful/sexual relations for things that Paul refers to as:

*Contrary to nature!*

So **they're sinful** but they're also against **the natural order** of creation

Sin is **NOT just** a transgression of God's holy law – but it's also a transgression of **His holy wisdom**

That's why when we sin – the bible refers to us as:

*Fools!*

We're **NOT** just sinners – but we are *foolish sinners* walking the path of folly!

## Proverbs 6

And so here in Proverbs 6 we see Solomon warning his sons about:

The fixed moral consequences of a *greedy and lazy person*

And **at first glance** this section of Proverbs 6 may seem strange to you...

Given that it's sandwiched between Proverbs chapter 5 which spoke about the dangers of adultery – and then again in Proverbs 6 which also speaks about the dangers of the adulterous woman:

Proverbs 6 verses 1 to 19 may seem strange to you!

Like what is going on here?!?!

We went from **don't fall** into the trap of adultery – to now being warned against lazy, slothful, arrogant, evil?!?!

And then in chapter 6 verse 24 **we go back** to the warnings of adultery!

Like what is going on?!?!

This seems **completely random** to us!

In fact many commentators have said that **this section** of Proverbs 6 is so unrelated (it is so random in its content) that they think it's at the **hand of an editor!**

That someone/somewhere just parachuted **into the text** and simply asserted their own **miscellaneous opinions** about idleness, & laziness, and slothfulness & security – that:

It just **doesn't seem** to fit...

## NOT RANDOM

But here's the thing I **don't think** this is **random** or **miscellaneous** at all...

I actually think these verses we're looking at are **highly related** to the topic of **lust/porn/adultery/ and evil:**

Highly related – that it's **almost impossible** to actually **NOT get the connection** provided we're **paying attention!**

As one pastor says:

*This section **isn't** some disconnected portion of Proverbs 6 that doesn't relate to what comes **before** it or **after** it – but rather this section is a very important **connecting piece** to the whole theme of adultery!*

As one commentator notes:

*The verdict of experience shows us that a life of idleness is one of the most **prolific sources** of a life of impurity...*

The life of idleness (the life of laziness/ of slothfulness – what we’re dealing with this morning) is one of the most **prolific sources** of a life of impurity!

### Main Point

Or to put it another way:

*Lazy boys grow up to become dangerous men*

Lazy boys grow up to become dangerous men!

Lazy boys grow up to become adulterers!

And liars!

And perjurers!

And divisive/factional people!

Lazy boys become easily seduced by sleazy women!

And here in Proverbs 6 we see this progression of laziness – a progression of depravity & greed that moves from:

Having **small** problems – to **bigger** problems – to the **biggest** problem!

And it’s **all by way of illustration** of what happens when you **don’t walk** in God’s way!

If you reject God’s wisdom – if you walk according to the world – you get to live a life of what the Proverbs refers to as **folly!**

As absolute foolishness & waywardness from the path of God!

Or another **to put it another way:**

Here are 3 examples – or 3 illustrations of **what stupid looks like** when we don't walk God's way!

When we reject God's wisdom – when we don't heed the Scriptures – here are 3 ways that **stupid will be served up to you** on a silver platter:

First – in the **foolish & fickle** life – [entangled by money] **1-5**

Second – in the **lazy & wasted** life – [entangled by idleness] **6-11**

And third – in the **evil & wicked** life – [entangled by sin] **12-19**

So we're gonna see:

The **foolish** life (1-5)

The **wasted** life (6-11)

The **wicked** (12-19)

So let's begin with point 1:

*The lazy man and the foolish life*

Solomon begins:

*My son, if you have put up security for your neighbour, or entered into an agreement with a stranger, <sup>2</sup> if you have been snared by the words of your mouth— trapped by the words from your mouth. <sup>3</sup> Do this, then, my son, and free yourself, for you have put yourself in your neighbour's power: Go, humble yourself, and plead with your neighbour. <sup>4</sup> Don't give sleep to your eyes or slumber to your eyelids. <sup>5</sup> Escape like a gazelle from a hunter, like a bird from a hunter's trap.*

## Opening Gambit

So this is sort of the **first introduction** we get to the topic of **biblical economics** in the Proverbs – biblical economics!

*If you have put up security for your neighbour – or entered into an agreement with a stranger...*

The idea is that in **ancient Israel** a person would go **guarantor on a loan** by offering money/ or **financial security** for a person who **isn't able** to pay the money back!

To put up security for a neighbour means:

*To accept the responsibility of the borrower's debt **if the borrower** fails to pay the lender what's due!*

An example of this would be found Genesis 43:9 where:

*Judah pledges to Jacob that he will be security for Benjamin's safe return...*

He puts his things **on the line** if Benjamin does **NOT** return safely back to the land of Egypt!

Now in the context of Proverbs 6:

- The *neighbour* is ***the lender*** in verse 1 – he's the one who's actually ***lending the money*** to the stranger!

And he'll be **mentioned again** down in verse 3!

- And then the stranger there is the one who's actually **borrowing the money** – he's the one that you're putting up your **security for!**

So it would be like co-signing a loan where you promise to pledge your possessions for a person **you don't even know** who has a **massive amount** of debt – and if the **person cannot pay** the money back:

Then **you're the one** who's gonna have to **front the bill!**

You're the one who's gonna have to pay the **full amount!**

So it's your possessions – it's your home – it's your security that's **going to go** to the **neighbour** if the **stranger** fails to pay the correct amount!

I mean **NOT only** is that a **really unwise**/ and **foolish decision** for any person to be making – but Solomon says:

Imagine doing this for an absolute **stranger**!

Imagine doing this for a person you **hardly know**!

And so it's getting into a situation where **another person's default** could potentially bring **you** into financial ruin!

And **NOT only you** but your entire family (your wife & your children) could lose their inheritance!

### **Grace Care**

So it would kind of be like one of the people **in our church** who does **Grace Care** on a Thursday morning – putting up their property or home for a person who attends **Grace care weekly** (one of the people **who come** to get food from Grace care) – because the person says:

*Hey you just gotta trust me that I've got this **great business deal** and it's all gonna work out – I just need a little bit of **collateral** if things go poorly and **I can't pay the money back** – but don't worry I'm **NOT** gonna skip town or default on my payments!*

I mean no one in their right mind would even consider doing a deal as **stupid** as that!

And yet that's the **kind of situation** Solomon describes as happening in Proverbs 6!

The Son has put up security for a stranger (a pledge for someone he **doesn't really know**) and the person is **unlikely to pay** the debt that he's managed to incur!

### **Motives**

And it's hard to know **the reason why** the son would even do something like this!

Why would a young man **pledge to be** security for a stranger when they **don't even know** if the stranger **can pay** the money back?!?!



Well we **don't really know** the motive of the son – but it **could be** a number of different things:

**Maybe the son is trying to impress a certain group of people that's really important in his life!**

Maybe the son is going guarantor for someone with status—trying to look, brave, or generous like a “man of great influence.”

And so He wants to look *wealthy enough* to take risks—as he wants to gain **street cred** for his generosity!

### **Soft-Heart**

Or maybe the son has a soft & tender heart toward people who suffer much in this life!

The son might be **genuinely compassionate**—and have this **bleeding heart** for the poor in his community—and he thinks he's doing something noble!

I mean we have **many people** in **our church** with hearts that are **full of mercy!**

### **Pressure**

Maybe the son feels **pressure by social experience!**

You know maybe it's a **family member** or **friend** who is a **distant relative** who has asked him directly to go guarantor – and it's kind of **awkward** to say no to them!

Or maybe he feels the guilt & pressure because this person **lent him money** in the past when he was struggling with life!

### **Naïve**

Or maybe the son is simply **just naïve!**

Maybe he simply **doesn't understand** the kind of **risk that's involved** in this financial entanglement!

And maybe he thinks:

*You know surely this deal is going to work out for me! I mean surely people know that they need to **pay back their debts**, right?...*

Ultimately, we **don't really know** the son's **motive** or **reason** for doing this!

### **Easy Money**

But if you consider the context of these verses – where the father directly **goes on to address** the son's laziness in work – **it seems likely that:**

Whatever is happening in verses 1 to 5 is a **result of** the son's **idle simplicity!**

The father's warning **comes** from a **lack** of the son's ability to **work hard for his money!**

And I say that because the motive **appears to be** that the son is going to make a small profit on **the fee** he charges for the service!

In other words:

*Easy money!*

In other words:

*I know someone really well who has a lot of money and **for a profit** I can hook you guys up!*

In other words:

I'll be the middle man!

And You're gonna get the money you need!

I'm gonna get the money that I desire!

And my friend is gonna make some money with the interest!

And so the son thinks:

This is a **win – win – win** for all 3 of us!

And ultimately the son is trying to get:

**Something for nothing**

I'm gonna get easy money – I'm gonna get free money:

I won't **have to lift** a finger!

**Get Rich Quick**

The only problem is – when the **guy** who **borrow**s the money –  
**doesn't have the ability** to pay the money back!

Then what's going to happen?!?!

Solomon says:

*Have you thought through the implications my son?!?!*

Because **NOT only** are you gonna have to **front the bill** for the money that the **other guy** cannot pay  
– but now:

1. **Your future possessions!**
2. Your **children's future inheritance!**

Is all going **on the line!**

It's **all going to your neighbour** in verse 1!

Because you were:

*Trying to make a **quick buck** – on a **risky deal** that you had **no control** over!*

### **Deliver yourself**

And so Solomon says:

*Do **whatever you need to** do to get out of this deal – before it's too late! Because it's **NOT** going to end well for you!*

I don't care if you have to **plead** – or **beg** – or **bargain** or **pray** – you do whatever you need to **get out of** that entrapment:

**Before it's too late!**

Verse 3:

*Do this, my son – deliver yourself (or free yourself) from your neighbour's power – go to your neighbour, humble yourself and plead with your neighbour – or else you will be **hunted down**, and you will be killed like a gazelle or a bird caught in a hunter's trap!*

**Don't** go to **sleep** – **don't** indulge in slumber but go to your neighbour and act **quickly & swiftly** and do whatever you need to do to get out of this kind of shady deal!

### **Application**

Now the **application of this text** has over been misinterpreted by many!

This is **NOT** a universal statement about **never co-signing a loan** – or **going guarantor** on a **property** that your children are trying to buy!

That's **NOT** what this passage is trying to demonstrate!

It's **NOT saying** that you can **never go guarantor** on a property – or that you can never make risky financial agreements!

It's **NOT even** talking about **going into financial debt**!

This is talking about **being a foolish person** trying to make a lot of money:

Without **even lifting**, a finger!

Without **ever working hard** for the money you're trying to spend!

Thinking that you can make a **quick buck** & exploit a stranger's weakness because your heart is so greedy and you have an **over-inflated view** of your ability to **fix a situation!**

That's what Solomon is trying to address!

Because see the general wisdom of the Proverbs is that **it's foolish** to **become responsible** for that **over which** we have zero control!

And so He's warning his sons NOT to make rash/foolish decisions that contribute to this character of **being a lazy boy** – being a lazy worker!

### **The Blessing of Work**

And so the biblical command here is that:

You need to work hard for your money

In fact **from the earliest of age** little boys (and little girls) – but **boys in particular** need to be taught:

The **benefits** and **blessings** of back-breaking labour!

From the earliest of age little boys need know the joy of **physical pain** – they need to know what it is to **be exhausted** – to **have callouses** on their hands – and a job well-done!

And they need to know that work is **NOT** a result of the fall in **Genesis 3** – it's **NOT** the result of God **cursing the world** – but work has **always been** a blessing from God to **measure & demonstrate** our spiritual maturity!

Money is a gift to demonstrate our spiritual maturity!

### Al Mohler

In fact I was reading an article this week written by Al Mohler on the topic of *Biblical manhood* – and he was saying that:

*Financial **stability** is a mark of biblical **maturity***

Here's what he says in the article – he says:

*The portrait of young men made popular in the media today is characterized by economic carelessness, self-centeredness and laziness. But a real man knows how to hold a job, how to handle money, and how to take care of the needs of his wife and children. A failure to develop **economic maturity** means that young men **often float** from job to job, and can **often take years** to “find themselves” in terms of career and vocation. But **a boy must be taught how to work, how to save, how to invest, and how to spend money with care.** He must be taught to respect labour, to feel the satisfaction that comes from a job well done, and a dollar honestly earned. Too many boys are **coddled** and **entertained**, demonstrating a laziness that will be highly detrimental to their future prospects as **husbands** and **fathers**. Slothfulness, laziness, and economic carelessness are marks of immaturity [not biblical manhood].<sup>1</sup>*

Now that was a **long** quote – but that was a **helpful** quote!

Because it demonstrates that **money** – & **work** – & **finance** & **labour** are all **wonderful gifts** – and all ways for us to measure our spiritual maturity!

They are ways for us to know how well we are doing in the **admonition** & **commandments** of *fearing God!*

Because a person who **works hard** – who **saves well** – and who **spends money wisely** is a person that the Proverbs characterise as:

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<sup>1</sup> <https://albertmohler.com/2005/04/21/from-boy-to-man-the-marks-of-manhood-part-one/>

*Fearing the LORD!*

This is a person who understands **God's way** in **God's world** and seeks to **live a life** that is biblically faithful to the commands and the decrees of Holy Scripture!

So that's the first warning Solomon gives!

A dangerous boy is a lazy boy – and a lazy boy is trapped by the words of his mouth!

He is trapped by the **financial stupidity** of making rash decisions!

And he is trapped by trying to make an easy dollar!

Trying to **exploit the weaknesses** of others so that he can make cash without ever lifting a finger!

And if you live that way – if you pursue that life then you will come across **abject failure** and you are **inviting pain** into your life!

## **Point 2**

This is why Solomon goes on in verses 6 to 11 to speak about:

*The dangerously wasted life*

Have a look at verse 6 – Solomon writes:

*Go to the ant, you slacker! Observe its ways and become wise.*

*<sup>7</sup> Without leader, administrator, or ruler, <sup>8</sup> it prepares its provisions in summer; it gathers its food during harvest. <sup>9</sup> How long will you stay in bed, you slacker? When will you get up from your sleep? <sup>10</sup> A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the arms to rest, <sup>11</sup> and poverty will come like a robber, and your need, like a bandit...*

## **Sluggard**

Now many of you probably know the word for *slacker* here in verse 6 – as more appropriately referred to as:

### ***The Sluggard***

It's a word that literally speaks about the lazy/idle person who **refuses to do the proper work** at the **proper time!**

A sluggard is **NOT necessarily** one who just **lies in bed** all day:

Though that is a **common feature** of the sluggard!

But a Sluggard is really any person who refuses to do:

The **proper work** at the **proper time!**

I'm sure we've all met those ***idle procrastinators*** before – you know the ones who love to be:

Productively lazy!

They get a **sudden urge** to all of a sudden ***clean the house*** – or ***do the dishes*** – ***wash the car*** – or **re-organize the pantry** because there's **an assignment** due – or a **deadline** at work – or a **conversation** they're **avoiding!**

Because they're **trying to avoid** the **actual work** needing to be done!

The actual work needing to be **accomplished!**

### **Lazy Sluggard**

And so the sluggard can actually take **many forms** in the book of Proverbs!

We come across the **lazy sluggard** in Proverbs 26:14:

*As a door turns on its hinges, so the sluggard turns on his bed...*

I mean you can almost imagine this as a humorous riddle in Solomon day:



*What moves without going anywhere? – A door on its hinges!*

*What else? – A sluggard on his bed!*

He's always moving but he never gets anywhere!

He looks productive – but he's **actually NOT!**

And Solomon says that a sluggard looks suspiciously like a **person practicing** for death

Dead men lie in their graves – like a sluggard lies all day in his bed **doing absolutely nothing** to contribute to society!

And so a sluggard may look busy – but at the end of the day he is a worthless/lazy person!

### **Destructive**

Or what about the **destructive sluggard** – Proverbs 18:9:

*Whoever is slack in his work is a brother to him who destroys*

**NOT only** does the sluggard ***get destroyed*** by poverty – but a sluggard is one who:

**Is a destroyer!**

He is one who destroys both **society** & the **family** through his laziness!

And this implies that the gift of life itself is **so bound up** in being ***productively busy*** in the Kingdom of God – that if you're **NOT** working hard to build God's image/ God's glory/ God's creation in the world – then:

You are a destroyer of life!

Proverbs says that:

You destroy God's creation!

Because we need to be busy building God's world with the **right kind** of labour!

## Quits

Or what about the sluggard who **always quits** – Proverbs 26:15:

*The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; but is **too lazy** to bring it back to his mouth!*

So even on those occasions when the sluggard finally begins **to start something** good – **even then**  
he is **too lazy** to **finish the job!**

The sluggard often quits **halfway through** a task!

He **can't even be bothered** to get the job done!

## Annoying

Or Proverbs 10:26 speaks of the sluggard that leaves a **bad reputation!**

Proverbs 10:26:

*Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so the sluggard is to those who sent him...*

The sluggard can leave **such a bad taste** in everyone's mouth – that they **can't even stand** to look at him!

I mean **how annoying** is it when you're cooking something on a fire – or just standing around a fire – and **smoke from the fire** gets into your eyes!

It makes your eyes water – It makes your clothes stink!

Solomon says that's what the **sluggard is like** to everyone around him:

He makes people angry!

He's annoying to work with!

He doesn't pull his weight!

And he ultimately ends up **harming** rather than **helping** other people!

### **Know it all**

Finally there is the sluggard that thinks he **knows it all** – he thinks he knows everything – Proverbs 26:16:

*The sluggard is wiser **in his own eyes** than seven men who can answer sensibly...*

This is the sluggard who knows how to contribute to society – he knows the right path – and what he needs to be doing:

But simply won't!

Because he's **unteachable!**

He's **unbearable!**

He's the expert in the room... who never gets anything done because:

You cannot correct him!

You cannot reason with him!

And in his mind **he already knows better** than everyone else around him!

And then he wonders why he can never hold a job!

Or make any money!

### **Nothing Good**

And so in the book of Proverbs the sluggard is always characterised by these things:

**Sleeping too much!**

**Or working too little!**

**The sluggards refuses to work hard – Proverbs 20 verse 4!**

**He makes lame excuses – Proverbs 22:13!**

**He avoids responsibility – Proverbs 24:30–34!**

**He makes people angry – Proverbs 10:26!**

**And he shames his parents – Proverbs 10 verse 5!**

I mean there's **literally nothing good** that comes from the life of a lazy/slothful person!

### **Armed Thug**

And so Solomon here in Proverbs chapter 6 is warning his sons about:

The **dangerously lazy** life!

About the **slothful life!**

And the **wasted life!**

And he says to his sons:

You need to **burn into your minds** the **destruction that comes** from a weak & lazy ethic

That's why he says in verse 10:

*A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the arms to rest and poverty will come upon you like an **armed bandit!***

Poverty will come:

*Like a thug holding a gun!*

When you **least expect it** – and in the **most painful** of ways!

That's what comes to the man or woman who is lazy & slothful!

And Solomon says that in the **kind providence** of God:

The lazy man will **NOT be treated** with **care** or **compassion**!

He will NOT be treated with **sympathy** or **love** when it comes to God:

If you want to be lazy then you are inviting the **providential hand** of God to **work your life over**  
with a baseball bat!

With a **2X4 plank**!

**Endless pain & poverty** into your life!

## **Food**

And so here's what we need to burn into our minds this morning – Solomon says that:

There is a connection **in the bible** between the **food** that goes **into your mouth** – and **the work** that  
went in **to procuring that food**

That's why in **2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 3** Paul says that:

*If a man **doesn't** work – then a man **doesn't** eat!*

*If a man **don't** work – then a man **don't** eat!*

There is **no food** biblically speaking apart from working hard in your job!

One pastor says:

*If you like the idea of cheap-Tuesday – then you need to also like **work Mondays***

And Wednesdays – and Thursdays – and Fridays – and Saturdays!

And Sunday is the Lord's Day which is the day of rest!

6 in 1 is **the pattern** of Biblical Scripture!

And so you cannot have food in your mouth – without **first having** labour in your life!

### **The Ant**

Which is why Solomon says in verse 6:

*To go to the ant – **you sluggard!***

*Go to the ant – you slacker and **consider her ways!***

*Go to the ant – and **gain some wisdom!***

Because this is what's so amazing about certain kinds of ants that God has created:

*She has no **chief**, no **ruler**, no **leader**, no **boss** and yet **even the ant** understands the principle of hard labour!*

*Even the ant (who is **NOT made** in the glory & image of God) – even she *understands* **that unless** she prepares her food in the summer and gathers food **for the harvest** – then:*

*She's going to die!*

Even the ant **understands the connection** between **working hard** – and **getting food!**

And she's **NOT even made** in the **glory & image** of God!

### **Deborah Gordan**

This week I was doing a bit of research in ant colonies and ant-production and came across a professor from Stanford University – Dr. Deborah Gordon!

And apparently, she spent **20 years** in the Arizona desert digging up ant colonies and studying their ways!

And her **chief theory** – her **main idea** after 20 years of research is to say that:

The one thing that **all colonies** have in common that there is no central command!

Nobody tells anybody what to do!

The queen just lays the eggs and sits there!

She doesn't direct the ants!

She doesn't give orders!

There is no [central] management!

No ant directs the behaviour of any other!

*The queen [mates once and spends the next 15-20 years] laying fertilised eggs by that one collection...She gives birth to every member, it begins with her and ends with her, and she plays no part in directing it...*

And then she says:

*Ants have no leaders, ants have no managers, [so it turns out] that the bible was right!*<sup>23</sup>

I mean I could have told you that!

I could have **saved her** 20 years of research!

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<sup>2</sup> <https://biblearchaeology.org/research/founder-s-corner/3784-go-to-the-ant>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://thebiologist.rsb.org.uk/biologist-interviews/for-the-greater-good>

You could have just read Proverbs 6!

### **Destructive Path**

And so **the main thing** that Solomon is wanting us to see is right there in this text:

The destructive **nature & habit** of a lazy boy!

Friends:

A lazy boy lives in a world of frustration!

A lazy boy lives in the world of excuses!

A lazy boy **always assumes** that nothing ever goes right for him!

The break **always goes** to someone else!

The ball **always bounces away** from him!

The boss is **always unfair** to him!

The alarm just **didn't go off**!

The car just **didn't have** any fuel!

The boss is **always corrupt**!

There's **always an excuse** that's coming out of his mouth!

He doesn't take responsibility!

He doesn't own up to his failures!



And Solomon says that:

A boy who is **allowed to make** those kinds of excuses is on the path to an **even more dangerous** life!

He is on the path to an **even more destructive** and **overly dangerous** way of living!

Which is why Solomon **now turns** in verses 12 to 19 to the **most destructive habits** of all!

The most destructive habits of a lazy boy!

If you allow your children (your sons or your daughters/ or even yourself) to go down the path of making excuses and being a lazy & dangerous boy - then:

[SLIDE]

Verses 12 to 19 is **all that is left** for them to go!

All that is left for them is the **wicked** and **wayward** life

### Point 3

Notice verse 12 – Solomon writes:

*A worthless person, a wicked man goes around speaking dishonestly, <sup>13</sup> winking his eyes, signalling with his feet, and gesturing with his fingers. <sup>14</sup> He always plots evil with perversity in his heart; he stirs up trouble. <sup>15</sup> Therefore calamity will strike him suddenly; and he will be shattered instantly, beyond recovery...*

Now I wonder if you noticed **how quickly** Solomon **turned up the heat** in this **third & final** section?!?!

**No longer** are we dealing with the **lazy/slothful & greedy** individual of verses **1 to 11** – no longer is Solomon warning his sons **NOT** to be **rash** or **foolish** when it comes to **financial decisions** – but he is **now warning his sons** about the **evil/ wicked & morally corrupt** people in verses **12 to 19!**

And what's important to note about the language of this section is that the **primary characteristic** describes a person who is:

Always shady!  
He's always shifty!  
And he's always up to no good!

So that:

The winking of the eyes!  
And the shifting of the feet!  
And the pointing of the finger!

Are **all descriptions** of a man who is:

Stirring up evil!  
Who consistently plots division!  
And who goes around speaking lies & promoting darkness!

So that **everything that he does** is characterised with this perversity of speech!

It's all geared toward **rebellious against** God!

He's putting his entire body into achieving these **nefarious purposes**!

### **Perfectly Mirrors**

And what's interesting about **this list in** verses 12 to 15 – is that it **perfectly mirrors** the description of the **Lord's hatred** in verses **16 to 19**!

In other words:

Everything that's described about the **wicked** and **worthless** person in verses **12 to 15** – perfectly mirrors the **7 abominations** in verses **16 to 19**!

So for instance:

- The *crooked speech*/ or the *wayward tongue* (verse 12) – matchless perfectly the *lying tongue/the deceitful mouth* in (verse 17)...
- Winking *eyes* (verse 13) – perfectly match the *arrogant eyes* in (verse 17)...
- The *hands* or *fingers* gesturing to evil (verse 13) – matches the *hands that shed* innocent blood (verse 17)...
- Signalling with his *feet* in (verse 13) – matches with *feet running to evil* (verse 18)...
- The man or woman *stirring up strife* (verse 14) – goes with the man or woman *sowing discord* (verse 19)...
- The *devising heart* (verse 14) – matchless perfectly the *plotting heart* in (verse 18)...
- And of course the *wicked man* in (verse 12) – matches *the deceitful man* in (verse 19)...

The point is that in every single one of these **wicked & evil** descriptions – the LORD’S hatred is perfectly upon the one who does them!

7 is the sign of completion – it’s is the number of perfection – and so the point is that:

The LORD **perfectly hates** the man or woman who does them

### **God hates sin**

Let me ask you this friends – **what do you hate** in this world? – What do you hate **most** in this world?

The bible **doesn’t forbid** us to hate things!

We’re allowed to **hate things** in this world – provided we are hating right things in this world!

### Trivial hatred

Typically...we like to **confine hatred** to things that are **trivial** or **inconsequential** in nature...

### Blue Cheese

For example – I hate blue cheese – I do I hate blue cheese!

I **cannot stand** blue cheese!

I hate its smell – I hate its look – I hate its taste – I **hate** blue cheese!

I especially hate it when people eat blue cheese, and decide to talk to me with blue cheese in their mouth!

They want to have a conversation with me after they have **just eaten** blue cheese!

I hate blue cheese!

### Horror Movies

Here's what else I hate – horror movies!

AMEN!

Like what kind of a psycho thought that **those things** would be a good idea?!?!

Even more disturbing is who in their right mind thinks that **watching them** is a good idea?!?!

Like who honestly thinks to themselves:

*You know what I need today...? I need to be more terrified, more traumatized, and unable to sleep for a week...*

Like who in the world enjoys watching horror movies!

I hate horror movies!

## Screamo

You know what else I hate screamo... I hate screamo music!

It does **NOT even deserve** the title of music!

You know it just **sounds like a demon** screaming at me from the other side of the speaker!

I mean it's just stupid!

Now those are just some of the things I hate – and those are the **more trivial** in nature!

## Serious hate

But there **other things** I hate...things that are **much more serious** in nature – things that I'm sure everyone in here hates **just as much** as I do...

For example:

Racism – I hate racism! I cannot stand racism!

It's opposed to the gospel!

## Abortion

I hate Abortion! It's wicked – it's evil – and it's the number one genocide killing humans babies in the womb today!

I hate abortion!

And anyone who promotes abortion as a **good** and **godly** thing is an **evil & wicked** person!

Or they're just ignorant and they don't understand the ramification of that!

But either way – I hate abortion!

## Child Abuse

Likewise I hate child abuse! I hate child abuse! Those who engage in child abuse are wicked!

Because you are deceiving children about what God is like when you do that!

They're image of **who God is** comes from those who abuse them!

I hate child abuse!

## God Hates Sin

So friends what do you hate in this world – What makes you absolutely sick to your stomach?!?!?

Think about those things that you hate...

And then hear this!!!

Regardless of what you and I hate in this world:

You hate **NOTHING!!!** like God's hates sin!

God hates sin!

He hates it with a special kind of hatred and wrath **that is hard to even** wrap our minds around!

We think that we hate things in this world beyond what anyone else could... but **we hate nothing**  
like God hates sin!

And because God hates sin **so deeply** – He must punish that which He hates **so deeply!**

The book of Hebrews says that:

*Our God as a **consuming fire!***

Think about that!

*Our God as a **consuming fire!***

A consuming fire that destroys everything that opposes Him!

Psalm chapter 5 says that evil **may NOT dwell** in the presence of Yahweh!

And because you and I are sinners – **we cannot dwell** in His holy presence!

### **The Gospel**

As a result of **our sin** – **you and I** are cut off from God – separated from His grace – condemned by His wrath!

But the good news of the gospel is that God has made a way for us foolish/fickle sinners to be saved!

Jesus Christ God's **one and only Son** has come into the world – **NOT** to condemn the world but to save the world!

To **seek** and to **save** that which was lost!

And He came and He offered His life for foolish, vile, and wicked sinners such as ourselves!

And if you would just relinquish your sin – and hold tight to the Saviour who dies Jesus Christ promises you **full redemption** – **forgiveness of sins** – and **eternal life...**

That's the hope that we have in a passage like Proverbs chapter 6!

That Jesus Christ **the righteous**– the one who is **the opposite** of **the fool** in the book of Proverbs:

He was the One who was **trapped** by our words!

He was **impoverished** by our lazy deeds!

And He was broken and crucified on the cross for our wicked sins!

And He took all of our wicked/malicious/vile/ sinful hearts and **He transformed** them into glorious creations!

Taking our sin into the grave – **killing it** in that grave and rising 3 days later from the dead:

He bestows on us the crown of the righteous wisdom of God found in faith to Jesus Christ!

### **Conclusion**

You know Spurgeon once responded to man in his church **who protested the wrath** and **holiness** of God found in the bible – and Spurgeon said:

*If there be a man before me who says that the wrath of God is **too heavy** or **too great** for his little sins, then I ask, if the sin be so little – why do you not give it up?*

You know over the years of the **reading the bible** – I’ve come to discover that the bible **never trivializes** God’s holy hatred of sin!

The bible **never once** trivializes God’s hatred of sin!

And here in Proverbs 6 Solomon is warning his sons about the dangers of trivializing sin!

Of thinking **too little** about it!

And sin in the eyes of a holy God are **NOT** just **small infringements** – things that He can **just let go...**

But sin (all sin) is in direct opposition to His holy character!

And so friends I pray that you would see the wrath of God that is to come upon the lazy/foolish/ and greedy sinners of this world – and that you would flee that wrath by coming to Jesus Christ today!





## Proverbs 6:1-19

### Discussion Questions

**[Read Proverbs 6:1-19].**

**Main Point:** *Lazy boys grow up to become dangerous men!*

**Q1.** In your own words, what is the main point of these verses? – How do these verses relate to the topic of lust/adultery/sexual sin?

**Q2.** What financial situation is being described in verses 1–5? – Why is it considered foolish? – What is the consequence of allowing ourselves to become ensnared in the power of our neighbour? – What motives might drive someone to become “security for a stranger”?

**Q2.** Do you agree that financial maturity is a mark of biblical maturity (as quoted from Al Mohler)? Why or why not?

**Q3. [Read verses 6-11].** What are the characteristics of a sluggard (lazy person) according to these verses? – **[Read Proverbs 10:5, 26; 20:4; 22:13; 24:30-34].** – What other ways can laziness manifest itself in our lives? – **[Read verses 6-8].** – How is the ant used as an example of wisdom? – What stands out about its work ethic? – What are the long-term consequences of laziness, according to Solomon? **(See verses 10-11).**

**Q4.** What is the biblical view of work? – How does it contrast with cultural ideas of success or ease? – How does Solomon describe the “worthless” or “wicked” man? – What specific sins are mentioned? – How do verses 16–19 reflect and expand on the characteristics listed in verses 12–15? –

**Q5.** What does this passage teach us about how seriously God takes sin? – How should that shape our view of “small sins” in our lives? – How can a trivial attitude toward laziness or deceit lead to greater moral ruin? – How does the gospel offer hope for foolish, lazy, or even wicked people?