

RULES TO LIVE BY
Proverbs 4:23-27

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Proverbs is filled with wisdom on many subjects – sexual sin, laziness, honesty, speech, a faithful witness, alcohol, boasting, hatred, correction, love**

- B. “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction” (Prov 1:7).**

- C. The whole duty of man: “Fear God and Keep his commandments” (Eccl 12:13).**

In our Bible Study passage, we will review four basic rules to live by during our stay here on earth: (1) Guard Your Heart, (2) Guard Your Mouth, (3) Guard Your Eyes, and (4) Guard Your Feet.

I. GUARD YOUR HEART (v. 23)

“Keep your heart ... Issues of Life”

As Believers, we know that our own hearts are naturally sinful and always in constant opposition to our new Christian mindset. As such, our hearts are susceptible to constant attack from the devil and we must learn to heed the call of Scripture to guard our hearts.

- **All actions, good or bad, begin in the heart.**

- **What are you allowing to penetrate your heart?**

A. Are you guarding your heart against evil?

(ex. Your thoughts, movies, television, internet, magazines, music)

- **“This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me” (Matt 15:8)**

- Filter our actions that can lead to wrong and therefore displeasing to God
- Only allow activities that are pure, holy, godly and righteous to be a part of your life

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” (Phil 4:8).

B. Do not associate with evil companions

“Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners” (1 Cor 15:33).

- **“¹⁴Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. ¹⁵Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away” (Prov 4:14-15).**

- Charles Spurgeon’s advice to a young Christian lady on marrying an unsaved man. Ungodly people will change (influence) you. Her boyfriend tried to get her to gamble and drink. Set boundaries in your life as to what you will and will not do based on God’s Word.

Spurgeon said: “How careful ought young people to be in the choosing of their partners in life! When two horses pull together how smoothly the chariot runs; but if one horse draws one way and the other pulls in the opposite direction, what trouble there is sure to be” (Quote DB - <https://quotedb.org/charles-spurgeon-quotes/>)

II. **GUARD YOUR MOUTH** (v. 24)

Froward – Deceit

A. **The tongue can be very dangerous – lies, slander, false witness, gossip, profanity**

- “¹⁶ These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: ¹⁷ A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, ¹⁹ A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren” (Prov 6:16-19).
- An abomination is something that causes hate or disgust. In biblical terms, an abomination is something that God loathes or hates because it is offensive to Him and His character.
- Use your tongue to Glorify God, Praise God with Soul-Winning, Discipleship, Giving Godly and Honest advice, Thanking and Helping each other.

B. **An unguarded tongue can lead to anger, bitterness, resentment which can result in fights, shootings, domestic violence and can ruin your testimony and reputation.**

- “A man of crooked heart does not discover good, and one with a dishonest tongue falls into calamity” (Prov 17:20)
- Be careful what we say and how we say it.
- Use your mouth for the Glory of God

III. **GUARD YOUR EYES** (v. 25)

Do not allow your eyes to cause you to sin

A. **Wandering eyes can lead to sin**

- Shoplifting, Lust, Envy, Greed
- David saw Bathsheba and lusted after her with his eyes. He acted upon that lust and sinned (2 Samuel 11, 12:1-25).
- “I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?” (Job 31:1)

B. **Control Your Eyes**

- Keep your eyes focused on the Cross and remember that Christ paid to redeem you.

- If you follow what you see, will it bring you closer to God or take you further away from him?
- “The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is ^[a]good, your whole body will be full of light” (Matt 6:22).
- “Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law” (Ps 119:18).

IV. **GUARD YOUR FEET** (vv. 26-27)

A. **Think carefully about where you go and not go (Go to the right places)**

- Does God approve of where you go? Is God pleased with where your feet take you?

“Although our feet can be used for good often people use it for evil. Does your feet run in the direction of sin or the opposite direction? Are you putting yourself in a position to compromise and sin? Are you constantly around the feet of the wicked? If so, remove yourself. Walk in the direction of Christ. Wherever sin and temptation is, God is in the opposite direction” (BibleReasons.com).

- “²⁶ Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. ²⁷ Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil (Prov 4:26-27).
- An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief (Prov 6:18)
- “Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths” (Isa 59:7).

B. **Stay on the Right Path**

God’s Word gives light to your feet so you can walk on the right path and in the ways of the Lord. We all have feet, but if you are without light you won’t get very far. God has provided us with the light of His Word to direct us on the right path.

- “⁵ Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶ In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths (Prov 3:5-6).
- “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path Ps 119:105).
- **Ways to Stay on the Right Path**
 - Bible Study and Prayer
 - Fellowship with the Saints
 - Sharing the Plan of Salvation with the lost
 - Love the Lord and thy neighbor as thyself (Matt 22:36-40)

C. Use your Feet to Witness to Others

God has given us feet not only so we can walk around and do what we want to do. He has given us feet so we can proclaim the gospel. How are you bringing the gospel message to those around you? Fear should never stop your feet from moving in the direction of the lost. There are going to be people who God puts in your life who will only hear the gospel from you. Speak up! God walks with you so never let fear hinder you (BibleReasons.com).

- “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!” (Isa 52:7).
- “¹⁴ How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” (Rom 10:14-15)
- **““The greatest form of praise is the sound of consecrated feet seeking out the lost and helpless.” Billy Graham**

MEMORY VERSE:

“²³ Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. ²⁴ Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. ²⁵ Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. ²⁶ Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. ²⁷ Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil” (Prov 4:23-27).

CONCLUSION:

A. Four Basic Rules to Live By: Guard Your Heart, Guard Your Mouth, Guard Your Eyes and Guard Your Feet.

B. “O Lord, keep our hearts, keep our eyes, keep our feet, and keep our tongues.” – William Tiptaft

C. Romans Road to Salvation (Rom 3:10, 23; 5:8; 10:9, 13)

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“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).