

I. The Goal - Prov. 29:1-3

1. Disciplined is not necessarily being punished (**verse 1**)
Rea -discipline is a bad word nowadays... I'd hate to be Politically Incorrect
 2. "Stiff-necked" - after rebukes
-stubborn
Rea -such a person will be "destroyed" - destruction doesn't sound like something a parent would do but the natural consequences of our actions
Rea -we reap what we sow
Rea -note "many" rebukes - some people will not listen and learn
 3. The righteous thrive (**verse 2**) - the people rejoice
-the wicked ruling is cause for groaning
Rea -both are natural results of "people"
-the writer sees this as righteous or wicked people in leadership
 4. **Verse 3** speaks to the person who listens to correction
Rea -contrast is so...
 - 1) loves wisdom - brings joy
 - 2) companion of prostitutes - loses his moneyContrasting lifestyles
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Why do people not listen?
-how do people get deaf to the voice of God/ friends and family?
 2. When I do right others are affected (verse 2)
-I reap what I sow, but so do others (they reap what I sow)
 3. Are there any "stiff-necked" people in the Baptist church?

II. The Availability - Prov. 29:12-14

1. A "ruler" is a leader (**verse 12**)
-the temptation is to listen to lies
-if so, his officials become wicked - they will be wicked as well
Rea -by his listening he affects his officials
Rea -is that a chain of information... he passes those lies on to others?
 2. Eyes are given to poor and oppressors (**verse 13**)
-poor people have no power, the oppressor has plenty
-the Lord will give both insight
 - Rea 3. That's hopeful... so both can benefit from God's wisdom
 4. A good king (**verse 14**)
 - A. A king judges with fairness
 - B. It affects his "throne"
 - Rea 5. So, does that mean:
 - A. Everyone knows that and appreciates his rule?
 - B. Fairness as a practice lifts up a nation?
 - C. Is this social justice?
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. "Ruler" is the theme in verses 12-14

2. Wisdom is a good tool for rich and poor
3. There's wisdom in that - all the wisdom is not given to "leadership" or "rulers"
-the word "ruler" in the Old Testament applies to all leaders not just kings

III. The Responsibility - Prov. 29:15-17

1. An undisciplined child disgraces his mother (**verse 15**)
-by contrast a child who knows the "rod"
-discipline helps a child to become a wise adult
Rea -the rod and wisdom go together
2. Undisciplined children grow up to be disgraces
3. Another contrast in **verse 16**
A. The wicked - thrive and so does sin
B. The righteous will live long enough to see them go down
Rea 4. It takes time to see that the righteous way will survive
-time is needed to take the "faith" view
-"faith" is long-eyed
-eventually the sins of the wicked catch up with them
5. He advises - discipline your children (**verse 17**)
A. If you do they will give you peace
B. They will bring you "delights"
Rea C. The implication is that if you don't you'll live in confusion - further, your children will live in confusion
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. Discuss "discipline" today - what forms does it take?
 2. Can you trace any of the nation's troubles to a lack of discipline?
 3. Do you think that parents are "disciplined" enough to "discipline" their own children?
 4. Lifestyles are often contrasted in these verses

IV. The Source - Prov. 29:18-20

1. No "revelation" so the people cast off restraint (**verse 18**)
-we need to hear from God
2. Blessed is the person who needs wisdom's instruction
Rea -there is "instruction" in wisdom
Rea -guidance is needed more than most will acknowledge
3. Servants cannot be corrected by mere words (**verse 19**)
-only if the servants listen with obedience
Rea 4. So... two types of servants
-listening servants
-ignoring servants
- Rea 5. What do you think "mere" words means in this verse?
6. Speaking in haste (**verse 20**)
-the obstacle to hearing God's word is haste
-being in a rush
- Rea 7. Discuss patience - why do you think it is rare today?
-there is no hope for the impatient
8. Be quiet long enough to listen to God

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. The theme... God's instructions will help, if you will but only listen
2. It is frustrating for a father or mother to want to "instruct" children, but they will not listen
3. It takes wisdom to listen, but if you don't have wisdom you won't listen
 -like the chicken and the egg
4. "Discipline" is a good thing, not a bad thing - but, today, we don't believe that

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