

Proverbs 10



Joy and Grief

The wise son produces joy in his father, while the foolish son grieves his mother. Fathers or mothers are blessed when their kids make wise decisions and are painful when they make foolish ones.

Wise people know that they have much to learn. A child lacking all the experience and perspective of their parents, who turns to their parents for guidance, knows they need to learn.

Wise people learn from the right sources. The wise son in this proverb heeds the wisdom of his mother and father. He keeps turning to the right sources for wisdom, the wise people who have gone before him.

We don't learn from experience, we learn by reflecting on experience.

Experience doesn't always have to be ours, we can learn from the experience of others. A wise son looks to a wise father and mother for guidance, reflecting on the lessons they have already learned, sometimes through trial and error.

People are motivated by love. Because they can see how a life of wisdom brings joy to their parents while folly saddens them, the wise son is motivated by love for his parents. Private folly leads to public harm, and private wisdom leads to widespread blessing. Wise people can connect with their wisdom helps others, while individual folly hurt others.

Be a person who is motivated to be as wise as you can because of love.

If you love Christ, you will respond with obedience to Christ. If you love your church, you will seek to bless it with your life. If you love

your family, you will keep your nose clean through wise living. Folly can destroy marriages, devour families, and sink churches. So, love demands that we hate folly.

What are the Key Virtues in Proverbs 10?

1. Righteousness leads to life (10:15-17)
2. The training of the tongue is as choice silver and with it, may are fed (10:18-21)
3. Security is found in life (10:22-32)

Proverbs 10:3 means the Lord provides for the basic needs of the righteous, ensuring they won't go truly hungry, while also thwarting the wicked from getting what they selfishly crave. While the righteous receive God's provision and contentment, the wicked find their dishonest and greedy desires ultimately unfulfilled and denied by God.

Key Themes

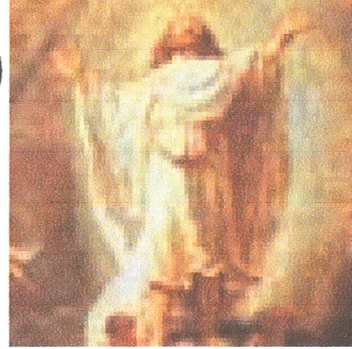
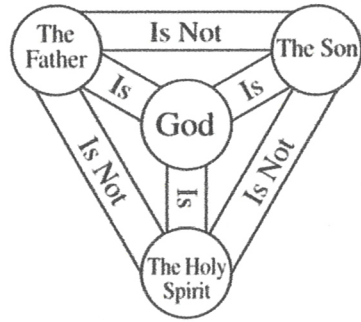
Divine Providence: The verse emphasizes God's active role in providing for His people and disfavoring those who act wickedly.

Contrast of Outcomes: It highlights the differing outcomes for righteous and wicked living, showing that integrity leads to fulfillment while wickedness leads to frustration and futility.

Spiritual vs. Material: While it speaks to physical hunger and needs, there's also a spiritual dimension. The righteous are spiritually satisfied, and the wicked are denied lasting spiritual food or true satisfaction.

God's Justice: The proverb illustrates a form of divine justice, where God protects the righteous and brings ruin to those who live in opposition to Him.

Proverbs 10:5 contrasts with a diligent and lazy son, teaching that hard work



What is the Substance of Christ?

The term "Substance of Christ" refers to the essential nature or core reality of Jesus Christ, particularly emphasizing his divinity and humanity in Christian theology.

It is also used to describe Christ as the true fulfillment and reality that Old Testament "shadows," or legalistic rituals, pointed to. In a different theological context, it can refer to the underlying nature of Christ's body, as in transubstantiation, where the substance of the bread and wine is believed to become the substance of Christ's body and blood.

Christ as the Fulfilment and Reality

- **Shadow vs. Substance:** The New Testament, particularly in Colossians 2:16-17, uses the metaphor of "shadows" for Old Testament laws, festivals, and rituals, while Christ is presented as the "substance" or true reality.
- **Freedom from Legalism:** Believers are freed from the need to follow these shadows because they have found their complete fulfillment and identity in Christ, who is the true substance.

Christ's Divine and Human Nature

- **Homoousias:** The **Nicene Creed** states that Christ is "of one substance with the Father". Homoousias meaning he is truly divine, coessential with God. Nicene Creed states belief in one God, the Father, one Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the one, holy. The salvation offered through Christ's death and resurrection, and the characteristics of the Christian church. It was developed to combat heresies like Arianism, which

questioned Christ's divinity, and serves as a central, unifying statement of Christian faith.

- **Belief in God**
- **One God:** The creed begins by asserting the existence of one God, the Father Almighty, the creator of all things.
- **The Trinity:** It declares the belief in the Trinity: One God in three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), who are co-eternal and of the same substance.
- **Belief in Jesus Christ**
- **Divine Nature:** The creed emphasizes that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God, true God from true God, and of the same essence as the Father. This was a direct response to Arianism, which taught that Jesus was a created being.
- **Incarnation:** It affirms that through the Holy Spirit, Jesus was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became fully human.
- **Passion, Death, and Resurrection:** The creed states that Christ was crucified under Pontius Pilate, died, and was buried, then rose again on the third day.
- **Ascension and Second Coming:** It also affirms that Christ ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of the Father, and will return to judge the living and the dead.
- **Belief in the Holy Spirit:** The third person of the Trinity or Godhead.
- **Eternal Lord and Giver of Life:** The creed describes the Holy Spirit as the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father.

Belief in the Church and Salvation

- **One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church:** The creed describes the Church as a unified, sacred, universal (catholic), and divinely founded institution.
- **One Baptism:** Affirms one baptism for the forgiveness of sins, an act of spiritual rebirth.
- **Resurrection and Eternal Life:** The creed concludes with the anticipation of the resurrection of the dead the life of the world to come.

The **Purpose of the Nicene Creed**...its final form at the council of Constantinople in 381. Its initial purpose was to reject a heresy called Arianism, which denied the full divinity of Christ. The purpose was to unify the church under a single doctrine.

The primary purpose of the Nicene Creed is to articulate and affirm core Christian beliefs, especially the doctrine of the Trinity (One God in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) and the full divinity of Jesus Christ. Established by Church councils in the 4th century, the creed serves to unify Christians in a common profession of faith, reject heretical teachings like Arianism, clarify scripture, and guide believers in understanding God's redemptive plan for salvation. It is recited in major Christian worship services today to reinforce unity and doctrinal purity.

Key Purposes of the Nicene Creed:

- **To define the trinity:** It clearly states the belief in one God who exists in three distinct persons: the father, the son, and the Holy Spirit.
- **To affirm Christ's Divinity:** The creed was a direct response to Arianism, which denied Jesus' full divinity. The creed explicitly declares Jesus as "God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God," emphasizing his co-equal, consubstantial nature with the Father.
- **To unify the Church:** By creating a common statement of belief, the creed fostered unity among Christian communities and provided a universal authority for the Church's teachings.
- **To provide a doctrinal foundation:** It summarizes foundational aspects of salvation, including the incarnation, the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus for human salvation, and the role of the Holy Spirit.
- **To Protect against Heresy:** The creed serves as a bulwark against theological distortions and false doctrines by clearly articulating established truths of the faith.
- **To serve as a liturgical statement:** The creed is regularly recited in major Christian worship services, such as Sunday Mass, to

reaffirm and instill these fundamental beliefs in the hearts and minds of believers.

The **Nicene Creed** originated at the council of Nicaea, in modern-day Turkey, AD 325. It reached its final form at the council of Constantinople in 381. Its initial purpose was to reject a heresy called Arianism, which denied the full divinity of Christ. The Nicene Creed affirms what Christians ought to believe. It's like a litmus test, it lets us know who is in faith and who isn't.

Arian Controversy

- **The Core Issue:** Arius, a priest, taught that Jesus was a created being, subordinate to the father, and not of the same divine essence (*homousios*). This challenged the emerging understanding of the Trinity and the divinity of Christ.
- **Constantine's Role:** Emperor Constantine, concerned about the theological dispute destabilizing the empire, convened the Council of Nicaea to resolve the Arian controversy.
- **The Council's Decree:** The Council of Nicaea issued the first version of the Nicene Creed, which affirmed that the Son is "begotten, not made, being of one substance (*homoousios*) with the Father".
- **Impact:** Arius's teachings were declared heresy, and the Nicene Creed became a foundational statement of orthodox Christian belief in the divinity of Jesus Christ.

The Filioque Controversy

- **The Addition:** In the 6th century, the Western Church added the Latin word "**Filioque**" ("and from the Son") to the Creed's description of the Holy Spirit's procession.
- **The Theological debate:** This addition asserted that the Holy Spirit proceeds from both the Father and the Son, making the Son coequal with the father.
- **Eastern Orthodox Opposition:** The Eastern Orthodox Church rejected the Filioque, arguing there was no biblical basis for it and that its inclusion was a violation of Canon VII of the

Council of Ephesus, as the word was not present in the original Nicene or Constantinople decrees.

- **Contribution to Schism:** The Filioque controversy became a major point of contention between Western and eastern Christianity, contributing to the formal East-West Schism of 1054.

Nicene Creed main points of Belief

- **I believe** in one God, the father almighty maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
- **I believe** in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended in heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
- **I believe** in the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
- **I believe** in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins, and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Nicene Creed is not in the Bible; it is a statement of Christian faith formulated by church leaders at ecumenical councils in the 4th century to clarify and defend core Biblical truths against heresies, particularly Arianism, which challenged the divinity of Jesus. While not a biblical text itself, the Creed serves as a concise summary and interpretation of key doctrines found throughout scripture, such as the Trinity and the Resurrection of Christ.