

Studies in the Book of Proverbs by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

(#142) The Proverbs of Solomon 19:22- Be A Man, Son

Since God Created humans, only God can provide specific understanding of human behavior. God gave Solomon Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**) to explain what and why behavior is as it is, and **Proverbs 10:1 - 24:34** are randomly written, as if they were Judgments Solomon made about individual cases brought to him for Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**), or simply God-given explanations about life. New Testament passages may help see the continuation of Wisdom offered through Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 19:22:

What is desired in a man is kindness, and a poor man is better than a liar.

“Kindness” is evenness of temperament, constant return of goodness, consideration of others. It is a universally recognized, timeless, and desirable, trait in humanity. “Love is kind” (**1 Corinthians 13:4**), and uninspired people see its wisdom:

- It’s nice to be important, it’s more important to be nice. (*Anon*);
- No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. (*Aesop*);
- Forget injuries, never forget kindnesses. (*Confucius*);
- Kindness is the language that the deaf can hear and the blind can see. (*Mark Twain*);
- A kind word is like a Spring day. (Russian proverb);
- Kindness, like a boomerang, always returns. (*Anon*).

It is a man-trait, especially, because it takes a real man to be strong enough to return good for evil.

See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.
(**1 Thessalonians 5:15**)

Kindness is a show of strength, but often mistaken for weakness. Regardless of who persecuted Jesus Christ, or how, He was more of a man than they, For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the



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tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--
by whose stripes you were healed. (1 Peter 2:21-24)

"A poor man is better than a liar" shows that poverty should not be used as an excuse for immorality.

- Better is the poor who walks in his integrity than one perverse in his ways, though he be rich. (Proverbs 28:6)

"The God of the Israelites was: "Ready to pardon, Gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, Abundant in kindness, And did not forsake them" (Nehemiah 9:17). Jesus Christ based one of His best-known commandments upon this characteristic of God, and Christians should develop the same characteristic:

But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. (Luke 6:35)

Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. (Colossians 3:12-13)

God's kindness extended through Jesus Christ should touch a sinner's heart (Titus 3:3-4), and the sinner should kindly return toward God (Acts 16:22-34). "Be a man, Son," obey the Gospel today (Mark 16:16), and make this a kinder world!

Cruel words can make us cry, but so can deeds of kindness.

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