

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

(#35) The Proverbs of Solomon 11:3-6-What Levels "Haves" with "Have-nots"

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 11:3-6:

The integrity of the upright will guide them, but the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them. 4 Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death. 5 The righteousness of the blameless will direct his way aright, but the wicked will fall by his own wickedness. 6 The righteousness of the upright will deliver them, but the unfaithful will be caught by their lust.

"Integrity" is associated with "blamelessness" and "uprightness," all of which are combined in terms like "honesty," "consistency," "purity," "devoutness." God described David, "a man after My own heart, who will do all My will" (**Acts 13:22**), to Solomon:

Now if you walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and My judgments, then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, as I promised David your father, saying, 'You shall not fail to have a man on the throne of Israel'. (**1 Kings 9:4-5**)

In fact, David asked God to judge him on the basis of his "integrity" (**Psalm 7:8**); although Job had lost everything, he kept his "integrity" (**Job 2:9**); and Christian "young men" should show "integrity" in doctrine (**Titus 2:6-8**). Other proverbs stress that a poor person who walks with "integrity" is better than a "fool" (**Proverbs 19:1**) or the "rich" (**Proverbs 28:6**), and, "The righteous man walks in his integrity; His children are blessed after him" (**Proverbs 20:7**). Those who are "poor" and spend their time feeling sorry for themselves because others are "rich," need to learn that having "integrity" makes them far more acceptable to God than any other quality! To King David, walking "in integrity" gave him confidence (**Psalm 26:1**).



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It is pitiful to see and hear the plethora of false prophets and deceitful speakers who fan the fires of victimization, emphasizing the difference between the “haves” and the “have-nots,” when if they taught God’s Wisdom, “integrity” would strengthen the hearts, confidence, and goodness of all who would walk in it. The contrast drawn in **Proverbs 11:3-6** shows that the “wicked” will fail and fall because of their own “perversity” (twistedness), “unfaithfulness” (failure to obey God), trust in the purchasing power of “riches” (**1 Timothy 6:17**), “wickedness” (lack of Wisdom or goodness), “lust” (narrow-minded concerns about their own desires above others).

All preachers, politicians, parents, and professors should be about educating and overseeing everyone with “integrity,” and forget all about their quest for power and influence in any other way!

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