

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

(#140) The Proverbs of Solomon 19:10- Robbing Hoods

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 19:10:

Luxury is not fitting for a fool, much less for a servant to rule over princes.

"Luxury" describes the pampered life one would expect in someone who has the power of office, but may have little regard for God. Jesus contrasted the Prophet John the Baptist who preached God's Word to "those who are gorgeously appareled and live in luxury [but] are in kings' courts" (**Luke 7:25**). "A fool" disregards God's Word and Way, thus "a fool" living in "luxury" is unexpected or unintended.

- He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but whoever walks wisely will be delivered. (**Proverbs 28:26**)

The same can be said for "a servant" to have "rule over princes," it upsets the natural order. Of the four things that are disturbing on earth, one is "a servant when he reigns" (**Proverbs 30:21-23**). Solomon later will say such a condition is "folly" (ridiculous): "I have seen servants on horses, while princes walk on the ground like servants" (**Ecclesiastes 10:7**). Revolution can overturn the order in society, and there are consequences that must be faced. "Class Warfare" seems to always have existed, and is based upon false arguments:

- a. **Zero sum philosophy**= the amount of natural resources and wealth are fixed, so no one may become rich without taking away that wealth from someone else. This motivates the "poor" to resent the "rich" and feel they are being left out of a "fair and equal" distribution of wealth.
As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor-this is the gift of God. (**Ecclesiastes 5:19**)



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Solomon said there is wealth for everyone blessed by God; there is no limit as to whom or how much God will bless.

- b. **Envy and covetousness**= lusting for what the “haves” have without doing their work to achieve it. When those who “have not” train their eyes on what others “have,” desiring to obtain it by evil means, we have an example of what God calls “covetousness,” which is idolatry (**Colossians 3:5**). Jesus said:
“Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”
(**Luke 12:15**)

Satisfaction with what we “have” comes from trusting God to be in charge:
Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (**Hebrews 13:5**)

When the “poor” are encouraged to covet what the “rich” have, they become “robbing hoods,” whether or not they are members of a political party, labor union, man-made religion, or underworld brotherhood!

