

Proverbs 1:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path:

Analysis

Separation from evil requires decisive action, not gradual distancing. The Hebrew 'al-telekh' (do not walk) commands complete abstention from the wicked's path. Reformed theology recognizes believers are called to antithesis—living distinctly from the world's wisdom while engaging it missionally. The 'foot' imagery suggests avoiding even the first step toward compromise.

Historical Context

Ancient roads were literal gathering places where gangs and bandits operated. Solomon's warning had immediate practical application while also serving as metaphor for all moral choices about companionship and influence.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What 'paths' in your life require more decisive separation from worldly thinking?
2. How do you balance engaging culture while maintaining moral distinctiveness?

Interlinear Text

בְּנֵי אָלָּה תַּלְלֵנָה בְּדַבְּרֵךְ אַתָּה מִנְחָנֵנָה כְּלַבְּךְ
My son H408 H1980 not thou in the way H1870 H854 with them refrain H4513 thy foot H7272

מִנְתִּיבָתָם:
from their path
H5410

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:101 (Parallel theme): I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word.

Psalms 1:1 (Parallel theme): Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

Proverbs 4:27 (Parallel theme): Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.

2 Corinthians 6:17 (Parallel theme): Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

Proverbs 5:8 (Parallel theme): Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house: