

Proverbs 11:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They that are of a foward heart are abomination to the LORD: but such as are upright in their way are his delight.

Analysis

They that are of a foward heart are abomination to YHWH, but such as are upright in their way are His delight. God's emotional response to humans depends on their moral character - perverse hearts provoke His abhorrence; upright conduct brings His delight. This verse grounds ethics in theology - morality matters because it affects God's disposition toward us. Divine delight or disgust depends on human righteousness or wickedness.

Historical Context

Reflects covenant theology where God's blessing or curse followed obedience or rebellion. Divine favor wasn't arbitrary but responded to covenant faithfulness or violation.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Does your character provoke God's delight or His disgust currently?

2. What heart-level changes would move you from divine abhorrence toward divine favor?

Interlinear Text

תֹּועֵבָה	הָאָהָן	עֲקָשִׁי	לְבָבָוּ
are abomination	to the LORD	They that are of a froward	heart are his delight
H8441	H3068	H6141	H3820 H7522
בְּרוּךְ:			
but such as are upright		in their way	
H8549		H1870	

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 29:17 (Parallel theme): I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee.

Psalms 119:1 (References Lord): Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD.

Proverbs 21:29 (Parallel theme): A wicked man hardeneth his face: but as for the upright, he directeth his way.

Proverbs 6:14 (Parallel theme): Frowardness is in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord.

Psalms 51:6 (Parallel theme): Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

Psalms 140:13 (Parallel theme): Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy name: the upright shall dwell in thy presence.

Proverbs 12:22 (Light): Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight.

Proverbs 8:13 (References Lord): The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

Proverbs 9:7 (Parallel theme): He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame: and he that rebuketh a wicked man getteth himself a blot.

Proverbs 13:6 (Parallel theme): Righteousness keepeth him that is upright in the way: but wickedness overthroweth the sinner.