

Proverbs 14:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the LORD: but he that is perverse in his ways despiseth him.

Analysis

This verse presents a foundational principle: your behavior reveals your theology. Walking 'in his uprightness' (Hebrew 'yosher'—straightness, integrity) demonstrates fear of the Lord, while 'perverse in his ways' (Hebrew 'naloz'—twisted, crooked) shows contempt. Reformed theology emphasizes that genuine faith produces corresponding works (James 2:26). We cannot claim to fear God while living perversely. The connection between vertical relationship (fear of the Lord) and horizontal conduct (walking uprightly) is inseparable. True piety affects every dimension of life.

Historical Context

The 'fear of the Lord' is foundational to Israel's covenant relationship with Yahweh. It combines reverence, awe, obedience, and trust—not servile terror but covenant faithfulness responding to God's character.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. Does your daily conduct demonstrate genuine fear of the Lord, or do your actions contradict your profession?
2. In what specific areas might you be walking 'perversely' while claiming to honor God?
3. How does understanding the inseparability of faith and works challenge you to examine your life?

Interlinear Text

הוֹלֵךְ	בְּיִשְׁרוֹ	יִרְאֶה	יְהוָה	וְגַלּוֹז
He that walketh	in his uprightness	feareth	the LORD	but he that is perverse
H1980	H3476	H3373	H3068	H3868
בְּדַרְכֵי יוֹ	בּוֹזֶהוּ:			
in his ways	despiseth			
H1870	H959			

Additional Cross-References

Acts 10:35 (Parallel theme): But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

Proverbs 28:6 (Parallel theme): Better is the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich.

Job 28:28 (References Lord): And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.