

Proverbs 19:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Delight is not seemly for a fool; much less for a servant to have rule over princes.

Analysis

Delight is not seemly for a fool; much less for a servant to have rule over princes. Luxury doesn't fit fools; leadership by servants over princes fits even less. The verse addresses incongruity - circumstances unsuited to character or station. Fools with prosperity waste it; servants ruling princes inverts proper order. This doesn't endorse rigid class systems but recognizes that character should match circumstance. When it doesn't, dysfunction results.

Historical Context

Reflects ancient Near Eastern social hierarchies where birth determined station. Yet Scripture acknowledges upward mobility for the wise (Joseph, Daniel) while warning that unqualified persons in power breeds chaos.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Are you stewarding prosperity wisely or squandering it foolishly?
2. How do you prepare yourself through character development for responsibilities you aspire to?

Interlinear Text

לֹא תַּאֲנִי הַלְּכָס יְלָכֵד וְתַּעֲנִי רְאֵן כִּי אַתָּה בְּדִין
H3808 is not seemly H5000 for a fool H3684 Delight H8588 H637 H3588 much less for a servant H5650

לֹא תַּעֲנִי רְאֵן כִּי אַתָּה בְּדִין
to have rule over princes
H4910 H8269

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 26:1 (Parallel theme): As snow in summer, and as rain in harvest, so honour is not seemly for a fool.

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