

# 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

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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

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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

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**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

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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

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לֹא	נֶאֱמָרָה	לְכֹסִי	תִּשְׂמַח	וְ	אֶל	כִּי	לְעַבְדִּי
H3808	is not seemly	for a fool	Delight	H637	H3588		much less for a servant
	H5000	H3684	H8588				H5650

חָשׁ לְ	בְּשָׂרִים:
to have rule	over princes
H4910	H8269

## Additional Cross-References

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