

Proverbs 19:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding shall find good.

Analysis

Getting wisdom demonstrates self-love in the highest sense—seeking one's true good. Keeping understanding leads to finding good, showing wisdom's practical benefits. This isn't selfish but properly ordered self-interest that recognizes spiritual flourishing is the path to genuine wellbeing.

Historical Context

Ancient wisdom literature was explicitly eudaimonistic—concerned with human flourishing. Biblical wisdom uniquely grounds this flourishing in covenant relationship with God.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does pursuing godly wisdom demonstrate genuine love for yourself?

2. What 'good' have you found by keeping biblical understanding?

Interlinear Text

קִנָּה	לֵב	אֱהֵב	נַפְשׁוֹ	שֹׁמֵר	יָת בֹּיָן ה
He that getteth	wisdom	loveth	his own soul	he that keepeth	understanding
H7069	H3820	H157	H5315	H8104	H8394
לִמְצָא	טוֹב:				
shall find	good				
H4672	H2896				

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 16:20 (Good): He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he.

Proverbs 3:18 (Parallel theme): She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her.

Proverbs 4:6 (Love): Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.

John 14:21 (Love): He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

1 Peter 3:10 (Love): For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:

Psalms 19:11 (Parallel theme): Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

Proverbs 17:16 (Parallel theme): Wherefore is there a price in the hand of a fool to get wisdom, seeing he hath no heart to it?

Proverbs 22:18 (Parallel theme): For it is a pleasant thing if thou keep them within thee; they shall withal be fitted in thy lips.

Proverbs 3:21 (Parallel theme): My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion:

Proverbs 4:21 (Parallel theme): Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org