Proverbs 2:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked;

Analysis

This verse reveals the psychological corruption of the wicked - they don't merely tolerate evil but actively rejoice in it. The Hebrew 'sameach' (rejoice) indicates celebration and delight. When sin progresses from temptation to action to celebration, it evidences complete moral inversion. What should produce shame instead produces pleasure, demonstrating how sin hardens the conscience and perverts natural moral intuitions.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern wisdom literature consistently condemned moral perversity, but Israel's prophets went further, identifying the root cause: rejecting covenant relationship with Yahweh produces moral insanity where good is called evil and evil good (Isaiah 5:20).

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does our entertainment consumption reflect whether we merely tolerate sin or actually celebrate it?
2. What does it reveal about our hearts when we take pleasure in others' moral failures?
3. How can believers guard against the gradual hardening of conscience that leads to rejoicing in iniquity?

Interlinear Text

שְׂמֵחִים הַ	לַעֲשׂ וֹת	רָע:	יָ גִ ילוּ וֹת	בְּתַהְפֻּכ וֹת	רָע:
Who rejoice	**to do**	**evil**	**and delight**	**in the frowardness**	**evil**
H8056	H6213	H7451	H1523	H8419	H7451

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 10:23 (Parallel theme): It is as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding hath wisdom.

Romans 1:32 (Parallel theme): Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Jeremiah 11:15 (Evil): What hath my beloved to do in mine house, seeing she hath wrought lewdness with many, and the holy flesh is passed from thee? when thou doest evil, then thou rejoicest.

1 Corinthians 13:6 (Parallel theme): Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;