

# Proverbs 20:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The glory of young men is their strength: and the beauty of old men is the gray head.

## Analysis

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This verse contrasts youth's vitality with age's dignity. 'Glory of young men is their strength'—physical vigor, energy, and prowess. But 'beauty of old men is the gray head'—accumulated wisdom, experience, and character forged through years of faithful living. Both stages have appropriate value and contribution. The young should use strength for productive work and defense; the old should offer wise counsel born of long obedience. Each generation needs the other: youth provides energy and innovation; age provides wisdom and perspective. To despise either is foolish. The church especially should honor elderly saints who have walked with God faithfully, treasuring their counsel and learning from their experience.

## Historical Context

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Ancient cultures generally honored the elderly for their wisdom, though youth and strength were also celebrated. The fifth commandment to honor parents implied respecting age generally.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. Do you honor and seek wisdom from those older than you, or do you despise their counsel?
2. How can younger and older generations in the church better support and learn from each other?

## Interlinear Text

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תְּפִאָּה	בַּחוּרִים	כֹּחַם	וְהִדּוּר	זִקְנֵי יָמִים
The glory	of young men	is their strength	and the beauty	of old men
H8597	H970	H3581	H1926	H2205

שִׂיבָה:

is the gray head  
H7872

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 John 2:14** (Parallel theme): I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

**Proverbs 16:31** (Glory): The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.

**Leviticus 19:32** (Parallel theme): Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the LORD.