

Proverbs 20:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

It is an honour for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling.

Analysis

Ceasing from strife brings honor, while every fool meddles in quarrels. Peacemaking requires strength to restrain oneself, while stirring up conflict reveals foolish lack of self-control. This echoes Jesus' blessing on peacemakers (Matthew 5:9).

Historical Context

Legal disputes and public quarrels were common in ancient courts. The wise avoided unnecessary conflict, while fools eagerly engaged in every controversy.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What conflicts do you need to cease from for the sake of peace?
2. How can you be a peacemaker rather than meddler in others' quarrels?

Interlinear Text

אָ יִלְלָא	יכָל	מִרְבָּב	שְׁבָת	לֹא	אִישׁ	כְּבָב	וְדַ
It is an honour	for a man	to cease	from strife		H3605	but every fool	
H3519	H376	H7674	H7379			H191	
תְּגַלְעַ:							
will be meddling							
H1566							

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 16:32 (Parallel theme): He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.

Proverbs 17:14 (Parallel theme): The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water: therefore leave off contention, before it be meddled with.

Proverbs 14:29 (Parallel theme): He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.

Proverbs 19:11 (Parallel theme): The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.

Proverbs 18:6 (Parallel theme): A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes.

James 4:1 (Parallel theme): From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?