

# 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

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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

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

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

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

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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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

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כָּבֹד	לְאִישׁ	שֶׁיָּבֹת	מִרִיב	וְכָל	אֶלֹא יֵל
It is an honour	for a man	to cease	from strife	H3605	but every fool
H3519	H376	H7674	H7379		H191
:תִּגְלַעַ:					
will be meddling					
H1566					

## Additional Cross-References

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**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?