

Proverbs 25:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

It is not good to eat much honey: so for men to search their own glory is not glory.

Analysis

It's not good to eat much honey; seeking one's own glory is not glory. The Hebrew 'devash' (honey) and 'kavod' (glory/honor) warns against excess. Repeating v.16's honey warning, this verse adds parallel: seeking honor destroys it. Self-glorification is self-defeating - those who seek glory lose it; those who seek God's glory receive honor. Humility brings exaltation; pride brings humiliation. This paradox pervades Scripture: lose life to find it, die to live, humble yourself to be exalted.

Historical Context

Jesus taught: 'Whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted' (Luke 14:11, 18:14). Philippians 2:3 commands: 'Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.' The early church's humility before a glory-seeking Roman culture proved countercultural and attractive. Modern self-promotion culture violates this wisdom pervasively.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does seeking your own glory paradoxically prevent you from receiving it?
2. What self-promotional tendencies need to be replaced with humble service?
3. How can you pursue God's glory while trusting Him to handle your honor or lack thereof?

Interlinear Text

ל	א	רָבֶּה	וְתֵ	דְּבָשָׁ	אֲכַל	לֹא	טָבֵד	ט	לִקְרָב	וְתֵ	לְקָרֶב
to eat	honey	much				H3808	It is not good	so for men to search			
H398	H1706	H7235				H2896					H2714
כְּבָדָה	כְּבָדָה										
is not glory	is not glory										
H3519	H3519										

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 27:2 (Parallel theme): Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.

John 5:44 (Parallel theme): How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?

Philippians 2:3 (Glory): Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.