

Proverbs 6:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth.

Analysis

A naughty person, a wicked man, walks with a froward mouth. The 'naughty person' (adam beliya'al - worthless person, scoundrel) is characterized by perverse speech. Beliya'al suggests moral worthlessness, one who brings no benefit to society. Such persons spread corruption through deceitful words. The verse identifies corrupt speech as defining characteristic of worthless individuals - what they say reveals what they are.

Historical Context

The term beliya'al later becomes personified as Belial, almost a proper name for wickedness personified. In ancient Israel, such worthless individuals disrupted community peace through slander and deception.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What speech patterns in your life might characterize you as 'worthless' versus valuable to others?
2. How does the gospel transform not just what you do but what you say?

Interlinear Text

אָדּ	בְּלִיעַל	אִישׁ	אָוִן	הוֹלֵךְ	עִקְשׁוֹת	פֶּה:
person	A naughty	man	a wicked	walketh	with a froward	mouth
H120	H1100	H376	H205	H1980	H6143	H6310

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 16:27 (Evil): An ungodly man diggeth up evil: and in his lips there is as a burning fire.

Proverbs 4:24 (Parallel theme): Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.

Matthew 12:34 (Evil): O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

1 Timothy 5:13 (Parallel theme): And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.

Acts 20:30 (Parallel theme): Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

Proverbs 8:13 (Evil): The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

Proverbs 17:4 (Evil): A wicked doer giveth heed to false lips; and a liar giveth ear to a naughty tongue.