

Proverbs 17:1, “Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices with strife.”



Family harmony and peace should be sought in every home. This peace and contentment comes from working hard to provide, enjoying the blessings God sends your way even though they may be few, and trusting your Heavenly Father in all things. Peace in a home produces children that seek peace in their future homes. It becomes a legacy that is desired to be passed down from generation to generation.

To receive God’s peace in our home, we must obey the Word of God. This requires daily work; daily feeding on God’s Word by all members of the family. Without this feeding, contention and strife will seep into the home.

Abundance of worldly pleasure often seems to bring with it contention and strife. Many Christians will never have an abundance of earthly wealth because God knows that it would become a stumbling block to them.

1 Samuel 2:7, “The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up.”

Proverbs 28:6, “Better is the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich.”

Proverbs 28:11, “The rich man is wise in his own conceit; but the poor that hath understanding searcheth him out.”

Being wise in your own conceit would most definitely become a cause for contention and strife.

Proverbs 23:4, “Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.”

Proverbs 11:28, “He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.”

1 Timothy 6:9, "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition."

Matthew Henry states, "Love will sweeten a dry morsel, but strife will sour and embitter a house full of sacrifices."

Proverbs 13:7, "There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches."

Notice the word "sacrifice". Compare this with Proverbs 7:14, "I have peace offerings with me; this day have I paid my vows." A portion of the sacrifice/offering was set aside and eaten by Aaron and his sons, Lev. 2:3 and 7:31. The sacrifice in Proverbs 17:1 may imply a figurative sacrifice of self-denial or a sacrifice of praise to the Lord.

The word hints at the life style of the family "full of" strife. They have a multitude of worldly goods. They worship the Lord. They may sacrifice or practice self-denial on church days and do all the motions of praise towards God. They may even serve Him in the nursery, sing in the choir, be an usher or serve in any other office. Yet, their heart is not honest with God.

They may be the family that fights and argues from the moment they get up until they arrive at church. Then during church they are all smiles as if nothing has happened. Once they are back into the car headed home, the strife begins again.

Two lessons we can learn from this verse:

- 1) Let's be content with even the dry morsels God sends our way, trusting that He knows best and a dry morsel is for our good. Even if we starve to death, we will never be hungry again in Heaven. Just trust Him and endure. Determine to have a heart of praise no matter what situation we endure. Proverbs 23:5, "Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven." Riches come and go, but peace remains for a lifetime.
- 2) When strife starts to brew in the home, begin looking for the source. It may be worldly pleasures or it may be a lack of daily fellowship with God in His Word allowing Him to cleanse our hearts and mold us.