

How does self-control bring financial success? (28:7)

He who keeps the law is a discerning son, but he who is a companion of gluttons humiliates his father.

THE TEXT (NASB)

He who keeps the law is a discerning son, but he who is a companion of gluttons humiliates his father.

Whoso keepeth the law is a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous men shameth his father. KJV - Proverbs 28:7

INTRODUCTION



The law calls for self control. The rather weak link to finances in the text is the word **gluttons**.

Gluttony promotes drowsiness and laziness. It impairs both our financial and physical health. Gluttony is excess consumption. It wastes food and money. It directs too much blood to the digestion process, thereby reducing our energy level.

With further study we can see that gluttony can be caused by a different type of hunger.



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COMMENTARY

The Hebrew word זוללִים (z?•l?lîm, pronounced “z-l?-leem”), is a plural participle for the verb זלל (z?•l?l), “to make light of.” It is usually translated as “riotous men” or “gluttons.” It is used first in Deuteronomy 21:18-21:

If any man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey his father or his mother, and when they chastise him, he will not even listen to them, then his father and mother shall seize him, and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gateway of his hometown. They shall say to the elders of his city, “This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey us, he is a glutton and a drunkard.” Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death; so you shall remove the evil from your midst, and all Israel will hear of it and fear.

Translation: *Gluttons*



The root word in Hebrew, ז?•l?l, also connotes “worthless,” “making light of” in the sense of “despise,” “being vile.” Thus it refers to all forms of excess consumption. One person’s capacity for food is different than another’s and therefore eating three hamburgers may be gluttonous for one but not for another. Nevertheless, excess is excess, be it with food, drink, or any consumable.

Teach Moderation Early

Why does a glutton **humiliate his father**? The father should have trained his **son** in self-control. Moderation in consumption should be taught early in life. Selfish consumption is inborn—watch any baby. Parents need to teach their children restraint with food. Otherwise they may be humiliated by their children later in life. Oh how well parents know the “ability” of their children to humiliate them.

How Fast Not Just How Much



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It's possible that the reference is not to the amount of food eaten but to the manner. God was displeased with the sons of Israel when they gorged themselves (Numbers 11:33-34) with quail, apparently driven by lustful hunger. They failed to eat to the glory of God. They let their stomachs be their God (Philippians 3:19). Learn more about the danger of uncontrolled consumption by studying the word for "swallows it up" at: [What is the simple secret to saving money?](#)

The First and Worst Sin



Self-control in consumption of food is not trivial since it's one of the main reasons the first Adam sinned (Genesis 3:6), and was the first point of attack (albeit unsuccessful) against the last Adam (Matthew 4:3-4). God also called Esau immoral because he allowed himself to be controlled by food lusts and failed to cherish things of greater value (Hebrews 12:16).

Gluttony or being bent on personal gratification comes naturally. Self-control and moderation are *learned* virtues. Consumption is not limited to merely food and beverages but represents all forms of consumerism including a focus on clothing, travelling and the pursuit of short-term personal pleasures. *Excess consumption in the physical realm may come from hunger pains in the spiritual realm.*



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OUR CREATOR, REDEEMER, AND FRIEND

Jesus overcame His craving for physical food by learning to draw energy from spiritual food. Meditating on God's word (Jeremiah 15:16) and acting in God's will gives us increased energy.

When His disciples urged him to eat (John 4:32), Jesus replied, "I have food to eat that you do not know about... My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work." He received strength by accomplishing His mission.

God's commandments are not burdensome. Rather than being a drain, they are a source of energy when obeyed by faith.

APPLICATION

- Memorize the text in your favourite Bible translation and think about it often.
- Learn to practice the discipline of fasting, but do it the way Jesus advised, secretly.
- Respect the law; don't ignore Old Testament instructions.
- Try to build and keep good father-son relationships in your family.

Which of these steps, if any, does Jesus want you to take first? Ask Him.



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KEY WORDS

companionship, consumption, family, food, gluttony, less assets (quantity), self-control, waste, self-indulgence, bf spending

ILLUSTRATION

Who is Self-Centered Sam?



Self-Centered Sam looks out for number one. Who's that? It's Sam, of course! Sam doesn't consider himself to be self-centered. One of his favourite books is ["The Richest Man in Babylon."](#)

What does Sam do with his income? The cream, the very best goes to his own long-term growth fund. His motto is 'pay yourself first.' Some call him Stingy Sam. But he's not stingy; he's just making careful preparation for his own future, comfort, and well-being. He is part of the "me" generation. He typifies the Maslow's hierarchy of needs with self-actualization as apex of all values. Sam is a dedicated humanist. He doesn't recognize any higher power than himself. He's a tough negotiator.

Sam doesn't ignore charity. But how could he possibly help anyone one else unless there was something in it for him? Therefore any and all charitable donations must have full and public credit given to the donor. The more people are aware of his generosity the better. After all, a little bit of advertising is good for business. When his corporation gives a gift it comes as a percentage of profits, not revenues.

His financial hero is the multi-millionaire, whose assets once exceeded the entire US treasury:



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The great Railroad and Steamship Baron [Cornelius Vanderbilt](#).

