

**“Better Than”**  
**PROVERBS 3:14**

**I. Wisdom is better than gold or silver (3:14; 8:19; 16:16).**

- Wisdom is a choice and a pursuit.
- Wisdom will make you richer than money ever will.

**II. Humility is better than pride (12:9; 16:19).**

- The humble are willing to get their hands dirty.
- The humble are those who submit to God.

**III. The fear of the Lord is better than turmoil (15:16).**

- Get your priorities straight and experience a good conscience.
- You will not find true happiness apart from God.

**IV. Love is better than hatred (15:17).**

- A home with many material possessions without love is a bad trade.
- You won't find happiness in things.

**V. Righteousness is better than injustice (16:8).**

- Righteousness is synonymous with the fear of the Lord.
- Injustice (dishonesty) cannot bring true prosperity for an individual or a nation.

**VI. Self-control is better than power and prestige (16:32).**

- The true heroes are those who exercise self-control and can control their temper.
- Conquering oneself is a greater achievement than conquering a city.

**VII. Peace and quiet are better than strife (17:1).**

- Harmony in our relationships is to be preferred over having all the food you want.
- Harmony/peace in one's relationships does not come without a price but what it purchases is well worth the expense.

**VIII. Blameless is better than perverseness (19:1; 28:6).**

- Honesty is the best policy.
- This proverb is not saying that integrity necessitates poverty.

- Choosing to do what is right and honest will cost us something.

**IX. Poverty is better than lying (19:22).**

- Loyal love is better than wealth.
- Do I keep my word no matter what it may cost me?

**X. The corner of the roof is better than the inside of the house (21:9; 25:24; 21:19).**

- There is something better than marriage.
- Grow in grace and make your marriage enjoyable.
- Wives, are you a source of strife?

**XI. A good name is better than wealth (22:1).**

- You are better off with a good reputation than with riches.
- There is nothing wrong with wealth.

**XII. Promotion is better than demotion (25:6; 25:7).**

- Let God promote you and not yourself.
- Let your reputation precede you.

- Beware of the mental attitude which sees oneself as always in competition against others.

**XIII. Open rebuke is better than hidden love (27:5).**

- Genuine love rejoices in the truth and not in unrighteousness.
- If I genuinely love someone I am not going to turn my head the other way when I observe a fault/sin.
- We have an example of this in Galatians 2 where Paul reproves Peter for his lapse into legalism and the bad example it set.

**XIV. A neighbor nearby is better than a brother far way (27:10).**

- We are to build relationships with people other than our family.
- This is not a criticism of family ties but rather an appeal to develop long-term friendships.
- God does not want us to live isolated from people and destitute of friends.