

Proverbs for Teachers 10

A reprint series for LEA members
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Rules Were Meant...

Prov. 6:16–19

Children love to break things—especially rules.

Did you complete the title in your mind as you read it? Many a rebel has adopted the phrase as a mission statement. Rules were meant to be broken.

How many rules do you have in your classroom? Teachers sometimes find themselves making a new rule for every situation that arises. Many rules are soon forgotten, both by children and the teacher—except for that one self-righteous student who has a photographic memory and the audacity to act as your legal counsel.

Some people think religion is nothing but rules, God’s attempt to drain all the fun from life. Still, most teachers realize the importance of rules for living in peace with others.

It appears that rules were an important part of education even in Solomon’s day. Consider Proverbs 6:16–19, which comprehensively covers behaviors that make life miserable—in the classroom and outside the classroom too: *There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.*

God’s rules, if followed religiously, would result in a wonderful life. Jesus summarized the entire of law of God in two commands—love God and love others. While God’s rules weren’t meant to be broken, broken they are! We’re as guilty as our students. So I commend to you one more rule, not really a “rule” at all, but a freeing opportunity. When you sin, run to your Savior from sin. Take you sins to Jesus. Help your students do the same. In Jesus and His cross, you are forgiven. And in the Holy Spirit, you are able to love God’s Law and grow in obedience to it.

Pray: I want to love and obey your laws, dear God. Help me to reflect in my life the image of your obedient Son. Amen.

There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him... (Prov. 6:16...).

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