

“People who wink at wrong cause trouble, but a bold reproof promotes peace.” Proverbs 10:10 NLT

lectio // Proverbs 10:7-12

I have seen people, not only drive right by trouble, but actively pretend they didn't even see it. I read a story of a guy who witnessed a shoot-out between two vehicles while driving down the highway. One of the vehicle's drivers was shot, causing him to run into a tree. But as the people started crawling out of the car, the man noticed a mother pulling her toddler out of the car seat in the back. The mother was screaming because the baby had been shot in the head, but was still alive. The man quickly opened up his backseat doors and put all three family members in the back, then raced to the nearest hospital. He said, he just had to do something! There are folks who see trouble and jump to help. Then there are these folks mentioned in proverbs who see wrong, but seem to be happy about it! The wink being an indication of a callous, cold heart that has given up on good and decided to throw their life into enjoying evil. Here, the peacemaker is the one who speaks to that, judging, correcting to not only stop the wrong, but shake the winker back to what's real. I had that kind of aloof, calloused heart when I was in Junior High. I had a warped sense of right and wrong until Christ saved me and began boldly reproofing me! It did bring peace and I no longer wink at wrongs, I grieve at them.

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Dad,

I just recently grieved over taggers in my city, brazenly peeing bright red spray paint on a neighbor's cement wall. It was huge and ugly and I was grieved over the disrespect for another's property and the false sense of power to mark the territory of his gang. This man was once a fairly innocent little boy at one time. Now, this is the highlight of his life to be reduced to tagging to prove his manhood. It grieves me now. I pray for him and ask for you to save him from himself, from a life filled with violence and retribution, turf wars and intimidation. Save our young men oh God!

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root