

We are all faced with having to make difficult decisions in our lives; sometimes we make these decisions on behalf of those who have put their trust in us. Our families, our homeowners associations, our clubs and organizations, our business's and our government by necessity, all operate with some delegation of authority.

If you are one of these unfortunate souls that have accepted the responsibility of making these decisions, you will not do so without hearing the advice of those you represent. These voices are sometimes supportive, often passionate and occasionally quite angry.

To complicate your plight, there are as many opinions as there are people and human nature being what it is; most everyone thinks that the majority shares their opinion.

So what are we to do? What weight are we to give to fear and anger in our decision making... to the passionate admonitions of others. Are we to be swayed by the voracity of the emotions displayed by others or by the factual and unsullied information that we have before us. Do we dare disagree with the powerful, the vocal or the many, in order to protect the powerless or the few who have no voice? Is it our public office or our elected position that we are to be concerned in protecting or is it our charge to maintain our honor and dignity through the search for truth?

I was speaking recently with a friend, about the challenges of making difficult and unpopular decisions. The next day he sent me a note, where he casually mentioned that he was often comforted by Proverbs 3:27. *“Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act.”* Now, I know that some might debate the exact meaning of this elegant statement. But, these words have lodged themselves in my heart and in my mind.

They shed light on the fact that we all have a duty to be true to ourselves, to support the dignity of our character on all occasions by doing what is right, what is fair and what is just.