

Topics in Proverbs

I. Skills in Godly Child-Training - Pt 1

A. God's Overall Intention for the Family

1. What are Children?

a. Bundles of joy or packages of problems

b. God's view through Solomon - Ps 127:3-5

i. a heritage from the Lord

ii. A reward

iii. Like an arrow in the hand of a warrior - what does a warrior do with it

- polish it, shine it, put feather conditioner on them, admire it

- keep it in the quiver happy knowing its there

- set it on the ground and say "go get em" "there's the target"

iv. arrows are shot at a target

v. Parents are to know

- what the target is,

- how to measure success or failure

2. The Importance of having a distinct goal (target)

a. without a goal, the busyness of life forces one down the path of pragmatism

b. common goals for children - not distinctively biblical

i. Properly educated - H.S. Diploma, college, etc.

ii. Get a good job - trade or professional

iii. Stay out of trouble - stay away from sex, drugs, and music I don't like

iv. Be a good citizen - Republican

v. Be happily married

vi. Be saved

c. What about #vi.?

i. the goal aims at one point, climax, event - conversion/ profession of faith

ii. Once the goal is achieved, then what? - #s i. -v.

3. God's Design Stated - Ge 1:26-28

a. God creates man with a particular task in mind

i. Subdue the earth

ii. Eve was created to help him subdue the earth

b. The family is created to subdue the earth for God

i. Parent's role is to train up a child for this purpose, (goal, target) - to subdue the earth under God

ii. Defining the purpose - what skills to they need to follow through with God's purpose for them

- establishing a relationship with God - evangelism and discipleship

- evangelism and discipleship will include the nature and attributes

of God, the fall of man, man's spiritual ruin, God's one plan of redemption, through Jesus Christ

- Learning to serve God
- to read and study the Bible
- the need to daily repentant faith
- to participate in the service of the local assembly - what are and how to use spiritual gifts
- to pray for the members of the local body
- to discuss strategies for the growth of the Church

c. successful child training will affect how the child sees himself

- i. A good Republican, citizen?
- ii. A good representative of the family name?
- iii. A servant of God, charged with the privilege of learning to subdue for the glory of God. - employment and marriage are tools to do this

4. God's design reinforced

a. By His endorsement - Ge 18:19

- i. God knew Abraham - in order that
- ii. Child training was a result of his own relationship with God - part of God's sovereign election

b. By His command - De 6:4-7

- i. Note the flow
 - identification of the one covenant God - vs 4
 - leads to love for that God - vs 5
 - involves immersion into His word - vs 6
 - overflows to instruction of one's family in His word - vs 7
- ii. Children are to grow up with God viewpoint incorporated into how they think about any area of life

c. By His sanctions - De 21:18-21

- i. God's view of tough love
 - no coddling, making excuses for, or family-olatry
 - rebellion brings the forfeiture of life
- iii. The child that has been clearly warned and disciplined by his parents, but continues in the course of rebellion against God
 - he was to be executed
 - the parents were to see that he was executed
 - the community was to know about it and participate in the execution
 - the surrounding community was to hear about it to prevent others from rebelling against God

5. God's original design confirmed and transformed

a. By Jesus - Mt 10:34-37

- i. Jesus' motto was not "family over all" - if there's a choice - pick Me
- ii. Jesus puts Himself above the fifth commandment

b. By Paul - Eph 6:4

- i. discipline - *paideia* - tutorage, education or training; disciplinary correction, chastening, chastisement, instruction, nurture.
- ii. Instruction - *nouthesia* - calling attention to, mild rebuke or warning:-- admonition.
- iii. Practically a New Covenant rewording to Pr 29:15
- iv. Paul did not give detailed instruction on how to raise children, b/c
 - don't need to re-invent the wheel
 - the OT has ongoing instructive power - Ro 15:4; 1 Co 9:9; 10:11; 2 Ti 3:15-17

B. The Stakes in Child-Training

1. Great Benefits to a Godly Child

a. The Fear of the Lord - Pr 2:1-5

b. Long life - Pr 3:1-2; 1 kgs 3:14 - obeying God's commands is found in both

c. Quality of life - Pr 4:10-11,13

- i. obviously if a child learns the lessons God has for him, it will keep him from capital offenses, - murder, adultery, homosexuality, blasphemy
- ii. but also give peace of mind and stability good for health and long life

d. security and guidance - Pr 6:20-22

- i. the comprehensive principle taught in biblical child rearing provide guidance for the circumstances of life
- ii. Not the Holy Spirit - vs 22, He does lead, but not by hunches, feelings, impressions, He uses the Word of God - Col 3:16
 - When you roam - **they** will lead you;
 - When you sleep - **they** will keep you;
 - when you awake - **they** will speak with you.

2. The Chief benefit for the Parents is Joy and Satisfaction - Pr 10:1; 15:20; 23:24-25

3. For the Child; a God given goal

a. application of the fifth commandment - Ex 20:12

b. Parents should expect that children will obey and honor them - Pr 29:17

4. The call to honor

a. honor - *kabad* - to give weight to, to regard, to treat with respect

b. honoring parents is the crown of social commands - Jesus' illustration - Mk 7:6-13

5. How to honor

a. listening intently - Pr 2:1 b. memorizing lessons taught - Pr 3:1; 6:21-23

c. gives heart to father - 23:26 d. internalizes father's teaching - Pr 29:17

e. Respects - fear - Le 19:3; Pr 1:7; Mal 1:6

6. Questions for Application

a. Would a believing child be expected to make a Baal-worshipping dad happy

b. Would God see a child's actions or their heart as they may act right in front of mom and dad only letting yourself out when they're not around