

Topics in Proverbs

I. Skills in Godly Child-Training - Pt 2

A. God's Overall Intention for the Family

B. The Stakes in Child-Training

C. Terrible Miseries for a Foolish Child

1. For the Child Himself - Pr 30:17

a. Description of the child

i. not walking in the fear of the Lord - 1:7; 14:2

ii. God has already taught

- to honor parents - Ex 20:12

- the dangers of rebelling against - Ex 21:15,17,Le 19:3; De 21:18-21

b. The path to a child's destruction - 14:2; 30:17

i. has mocked his father, -active sin of dishonoring God - 30:11

ii. scorned to obey his mom, - passive sin refusing godly instruction - 28:9

iii. Passively sins against God by not honoring parents - Gal 6:7

c. what the wise child reaps - the foolish child reaps the opposite

i. knowledge and the fear of the Lord - Pr 2:1-5 . . . Ro 13:1-2

ii. Rich and long life - 3:1-2 . . . De 21:18-21; 1 Jo 5:16

iii. Security and divine guidance - 6:20-22 . . . Ro 13:2, 5; Pr 28:9

2. For the Parents

a. Grief - 10:1; 17:21, 25

b. Humiliation - 15:20; 28:7; 29:15

i. goal of child training

- have a law of God abiding member of society

- if a child loves God, he will honor his parents

- if he honors his parents, it doesn't mean he will love God

ii. **zabal** - to shake (as in the wind), to quake; to be loose morally, worthless or prodigal:--blow down, glutton, riotous (eater), vile.

c. Ruin - two problems for a man - 19:13

i. a foolish son that brings ruin - can start early and raise toward wisdom

ii. an argumentative wife - hard to do anything about this

D. Application of Godly Parental Wisdom

1. Embrace the right Center and Goal

a. Worldly wisdom

i. produce happy children

ii. Results:

- lacks game plan for the fear of the Lord

- crisis management becomes the duty of the day

- lack of God centered long term goal

- indulges and promotes materialism and permissiveness

- damage to parent's relationship

- a self-centered, self-indulgent, unprincipled, undisciplined, aimless, ungodly child

- a biblically ignorant child who sees God as a cosmic vending machine

b. Biblical Wisdom teaches

- i. each of us exists for the glory of God
- ii. None of us is the center of the universe
- iii. The purpose of the family is to produce and train servants of God
- iv. Happiness is a byproduct of discipline and godliness, - God-centered, God-defined goals, values, and discipline

2. Cherish Wise Expectations

a. Are there Guarantees

- i. many view Proverbs as formulaic - $A+B=C$ (Job's friends)
- ii. God blesses the righteous and punishes the wicked = you are being punished therefore, you are wicked

b. Some think so

- i. Therefore, if a child messes up, the parents failed in one way or another
- ii. A misunderstood Pr 22:6 is the example most used

c. Biblical Realism

i. Pastor's Reference

- A Perfect parent, perfect environment, a wayward child/Adam
- A Perfect parent, saves, provides everything that the child needs - Israel

ii. The Bible never presents any formula by which one human can control the soul of another - if parents had such power, then . . .

- the wrong person is being executed in De 21:18-21
- Solomon is admonishing the wrong persons throughout Proverbs
 - Solomon does speak of ill fruits of poor parenting
 - Solomon places responsibility for rebellion on the child

iii. The only perfect child was raised by flawed parents

iv. Paul ministered faithfully and yet - was concerned this ministry might have been in vain - Ga 4:11; 1 Th 3:5

v. Our focus as Parents is to train our children to fear the Lord and then trust the

Lord with the direction of their hearts

3. Maintain the Right Focus

a. Discipline, involving civilization?

i. Solomon affirms parental authority

- They are to teach, reprove, and not shy away from using the rod
- draw lines, enforce those lines, expect and receive respect
- many times the parent may feel like they are the cop, judge, and prison guard - to refuse these roles is to refuse to be a parent

ii. Important to not lose focus on the real goal

- if you can produce a child that honors/ obeys his parents, does chores, reads his Bible, listens in church, participates in youth group
- What have you achieved? You may have produced a "moralist"

b. Discipleship, involving conversion?

i. Turning back to the foundational target - Pro 1:7

- the heart attitude of repentant faith and humility
- behavior comes from the heart - 4:23; Lk 6:45

ii. Reaching the heart of the children with a life changing relationship

- obviously the Gospel - real faith - trust in God
- the slow development of a true relationship with God - 20:11 based on God's word - Ps 1; 19:7-14; 119; Ro 12:2