

The Importance of Godly Fathers

Text: Proverbs 2:1-5 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God...

Purpose: Solomon wants to see his children experience God's blessings as they walk in the fear of the LORD, therefore he teaches them to fear the Lord and to reject the company of those who do not fear Him, so their lives will be preserved in the Promised Land.

Proposition: God wants to bless young people as they walk in the fear of the Lord.

Interrogative: How can He do this?

Truth 1: Fathers must teach their young people the word of God 2:1-2 My son, if...

- **Solomon as the wise father is presenting a pattern for fathers to follow:** The following statements showing us that Solomon was actively instructing his children. This must be a regular part of family life. Which echoes Moses' instruction in **Deuteronomy 6:** These words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.
 - Receive my words
 - Hide my commandments
 - Incline your ear
 - Apply your heart
- **Paul commands fathers to do the same: Ephesians 6:4** Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord...
 - **Nurture:** Nourish or bring them up them by means of training and discipline (Do not let your children be undisciplined, disrespectful, selfish, and lazy. You must restrain them, though the ultimate motivation for that restraint is not your ease as a parent or your pride, but their own good and growth in maturity.)
 - **Quick note:** Know where your children are in their relationship to the Gospel. If they are unconverted, realize the need to instill within them the need to be reconciled to God through the Messiah. If they are converted, instill within them a need to walk as disciples in light of their position in Christ.
 - **Admonition:** Warn them by means of instruction (Do not allow your children to learn everything the hard way. Teach them what is right and wrong, so they can avoid some of the great hardships you may have experienced in your past before you were converted.)

How can this be done?

- We must live before our children.
- We must invest time into our children's lives.
- We must actively discuss the God-centered life with our children. (ask questions)

- Why do young women seem so vulnerable to the attention of men who want to take advantage of them? **They may not feel loved and valued by their fathers.**
- Why do young men lack initiative and make foolish decisions? **They may not have seen the example of a Godly father.**
- Why are young people not industrious, hard working, and respectful? **They have never been taught the importance of hard work, nor do the adults in their lives carry themselves respectably.**
- We must systematically set aside time to teach our children the word of God.
- We must watch our children.
- We must lovingly affirm them where they are doing well so we will have credibility and their confidence when we must rebuke them.
- We must be a father to the fatherless. There are many young people who practically speaking are fatherless. **Mercifully reach out to them and be for them what their father is not.**

2 Timothy 1:3-6 I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day; Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy; When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also. Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God

Truth 2: Fathers must be specific in their instruction: 2:7-22

Saying son: “you need to love God and do right,” is good, but not specific enough. You need to get down to the practical basics of loving and obeying God.

- **Solomon emphasized the need for children to have a heart for God’s wisdom and truth. 2:3-4** Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures...
 - Cry after wisdom (emotionally moved)
 - Seek wisdom as silver (motivated by the value of the object)
 - Search for wisdom as if it a hidden treasure (persistence)
- **Solomon warned his children about two specific categories of people: 2:12-17** To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things; Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness; Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked; Whose ways are crooked, and they froward in their paths: To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words; Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God...
 - **Evil man:** How will you know who is an evil man? **2:12**
 - He uses perverted speech **2:12**
 - His pattern of life is godless **2:13**
 - He enjoys doing evil and hanging out with those who do evil **2:14**
 - **Strange woman:** How will you know who is a strange woman? **2:16**
 - She is a seductress **2:16**
 - She uses flattery to get what she wants **2:16**
 - She rejects the instruction of her parents **2:17**
 - She ignores the things of the LORD **2:17**

- **Solomon presents a contrast between the end result of two ways of life:**
 - **Way of the righteous (THEN)** He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly. He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints. Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path. When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul...
 - God defends those who obey Him: **2:7-8**
 - God will be his satisfaction: **2:9-10**
 - His way will be consistent: **2:20**
 - They will enjoy God's blessings (for Israel in the Promised Land) **2:21**
 - **Way of the unrighteous 2:21-22** The upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it. But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it...
 - They are walking down a road that leads to an untimely death: **2:18**
 - They are isolated from God's blessings: **2:19**
 - God will remove them from His presence: **2:22**

Truth 3: Young people must humbly submit to godly instruction from their fathers Ezekiel 18:1-4 The word of the LORD came unto me again, saying, What mean ye, that ye use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge? As I live, saith the Lord GOD, ye shall not have occasion any more to use this proverb in Israel. Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.

- If you do not have a heart for God, it is your own fault.
- If you do not obey God, it is your own fault.
- If you do not listen to instruction it is your own fault.
- If you choose your friends poorly and they hurt you...it's your own fault.

Conclusion: Solomon wanted to see his children experience God's blessings as they walked in the fear of the LORD, therefore he taught them to fear the Lord and to reject the company of those who did not fear Him. God wants to bless our young people as they walk in the fear of the Lord. Are you fathers being faithful to your God given responsibility and calling? Are you young people responding correctly to your fathers, and taking personal responsibility for your action? May God convict us deeply where we are being disobedient and unfaithful, and encourage us as we walk in His ways and interact with those He has put in our care.