**The Book Of Proverbs – Parental Wisdom**

**\*\* As we begin:**

* It is tough at times to take advice on parenting. Parenting is a challenge.
* Remember that our goal is to raise our kids to release them, the “leave and cleave” principle of **Gen. 2:24**.
* Parental roles are under attack in our society today.
* There are great benefits to building strong families. Here are just four: (1) We find fulfillment when our families are doing well; (2) We do not live a life full of guilt; (3) We raise strong kids; (4) We can live our lives with fewer excuses.
* When Solomon wrote Proverbs he did so at a time in his life that he was living for God and what he says about families comes from the Lord.
* We who are grandparents can still have a positive influence on our kids and grandkids but remember this, we are not the parents.
* Note **Pro. 11:29**. The word “troubles” means “to stir up, disturb, bring evil upon” and the point is that family is one of the greatest resources God has given us.

**Parental Advice From Proverbs**

 

**Parents have a responsibility to influence their kids in a Godly way – Pro. 6:20-23**

* Are we teaching our kids Christian values? Right from wrong? How to forgive? Decision-making skills?
* In **Pro. 6:20** we read that children are encouraged to “keep” (guard, carefully watching, observe) their father’s commandments and not “forsake” (abandon, reject) mom’s teachings.
* We should never expect our children do go against God’s truth by asking them to do so.
* Good wisdom can keep us from stumbling and God’s Word gives direction and protection **(Pro. 6:21-22)**. Show some grace. A mistake does not have to define a child’s life.
* **Practical:** Parents, encourage our kids. Show them the reasons behind decisions that we make. Help them work through issues. Help ground them in God’s Word.
* **Practical:** Are we teaching them about God, His love for us and the salvation He offers?
* **Point:** We raise our kids to release them **(Gen. 2:24)**.
* **Point:** Model the Christian life to our kids. Be people of truth. Do not lie **(Eph. 4:25)**. Control our anger **(Eph. 4:26)**. Work hard **(Eph. 4:28)**. Speak encouraging words **(Eph. 4:29)**. Be gentle and patient **(Col.3:12)**. Show them the Christian life that we value.

**Being a parent means involvement in your children’s life – Pro. 19:18; Eph. 6:1-4**

* In **Pro. 19:18** the word “discipline” means “to correct by words.” This verse is a strong warning against being a passive or lazy parent, allowing the kids to run the show.
* There is a balance between teaching them independence and them ruling the house.
* God has put the parents in charge of the home. The idea of “hope” in **vs. 18** means our kids are not a lost cause.
* The idea of “putting them to death” means if we ignore the teaching and correcting we are to provide, they may make decisions that ruin their life. They may anyway, but we must do our part to raise them.
* **Eph. 6:1-4** gives some good advice on parenting and good words for children. Children are to, first, “obey” (submit) to their parents.
* Second, we are to “honor” our parents **(Eph. 6:2)**. This does not mean we allow our parents to control and manipulate us as we become adults. Remember the “leave and cleave” principle.”
* **Point:** We may have grown up in a difficult situation. We can honor our parents by thanking them for bringing us into the world so we can know Christ. We can help them at times.
* Third, we are to not provoke our kids to anger **(Eph. 6:4)**. Some parents push their kids to get mad.
* Fourth, we are “discipline” (train and educate our kids, cultivate their minds and morals, correct when needed.” The word “instruction” has to do with teaching by words, giving wise counsel.
* Back to Proverbs. There must be consequences for wrong actions. We never discipline in anger. We never belittle our kids. Explain why we are correcting them.
* **Pro. 13:24** tells us to note be lazy in child raising. We care enough to help our kids immediately.
* **Key:** Each child is different, and we manage them differently. But discipline is part of life.

**Help our children to discover their gifts, talents, and how God has wired them – Pro. 22:6**

* The phrase “train up” can mean “dedicate, understand, instruct.” The Hebrew scholar Gesenius has it as, “train up a child according to his way, as to his manners and habits.”
* “The way they should go” deals wit their “way of acting or living.” The word for “way” is hard to translate. We are to dedicate our children to God and teach them.
* I believe this verse means more than spiritual training. It includes helping our kids to understand the way God has designed them with certain abilities, personality, talents.
* We are to help them discover their interests, their gifts, what they have an aptitude for. It does include starting them in the right direction in life, but it is helping them discover their “bent,” how they are created by God.
* **Key:** This verse does not guarantee that our kids will never go off the path, mess up, sin, leave God. And it does not guarantee that they will return. As a rule, many children, if they drift, do come back but this verse is not about that. Do not guilt ourselves over decisions made by our adult kids.
* Give it your best but help them to see what they are skilled at and enjoy doing.