

**I. Introduction and Review: The book of Proverbs is about parents imparting wisdom. 1:8,10,15 2:1 3:1,21 4:10,20 5:1 6:20 23:15,19,26 31:2**

**II. Parents, discipline your children.**

**A. Why is child training (discipline) necessary?**

- 1. Because your children are immature (childish) they need parental care as they grow up. Luke 2:52**
- 2. Your children need discipline because they are by nature foolish (morally deficient, lacking in sense). 22:15a Gen. 8:21 Ps. 51:5 58:3 Jer. 17:9 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child... The intent of man's heart is evil from his youth**
  - a. Children are born, not as blank slates, but with a sinful nature. Ps. 51:5
  - b. You cannot let them go their own way. 29:15 *A child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.*
- 3. You must resist sinful folly in your children.**
  - a. They reject (even mock) wisdom and instruction. 15:5,14,20 1:7,22,32 10:8 18:2 30:11,17 20:20 *A fool rejects his father's discipline.*
  - b. They don't show proper respect to their parents. 19:26 30:17
  - c. They choose foolish and wicked companions. 13:20 14:7 22:24
  - d. They talk too much. 12:23 13:16 15:2 18:7,2 13 29:11,20
  - e. They are proud and boastful. 14:16 28:26 27:1-2 *A fool is arrogant and careless.*
  - f. They justify their sin. 12:15 28:24 *The way of a fool is right in his own eyes.*
  - g. They are self centered. 18:2
  - h. They are quick tempered. 12:16,18 14:17,29 *A fool's vexation: known at once*
  - i. They argue and quarrel. 18:6 20:3 26:4-5 29:9 *A fool's lips bring strife*
  - j. They get into mischief. 10:23 *Doing wickedness is like sport to a fool*
  - k. They mock at sin. 14:9
  - l. They are stubborn and unreliable. 17:10 26:6
  - m. They flatter and manipulate. 29:5
  - n. They are lazy. 10:5 *He who sleeps in harvest is a son who acts shamefully*
  - o. They lie. 12:22 26:18-19
  - p. They steal. 28:24
  - q. They are foolish with money. 14:24 28:24.
  - r. They are attracted to immorality. 7:22 29:3
  - s. They are attracted to intoxicating drink (drugs) and gluttony . 28:7 23:29-35
- 4. Thankfully, not every child constantly displays every aspect of folly every day.**
- 5. Folly is "bound" up in the heart of a child. It will not come out easily.**

**B. God has given the rod of discipline as a tool to remove the folly from your child's heart, thereby saving his life. 22:15b *The rod and discipline will remove it far from him***

- 1. While ultimately God must change a heart, He uses means. 29:15b 23:14**
- 2. Your discipline of your children is like God's discipline of us. 3:11-12 Heb. 12:1f Rev. 3:19 Deut. 8:5 II Sam. 7:14 .**
  - a. The purpose is correction, not vengeance.
  - b. The intent is loving. 4:3-4 Ps. 103:13
  - c. The process is difficult (painful). Heb. 12:11
  - d. The result is wisdom and righteousness.
- 3. You, as the parent, must set the standard for your child from Scripture. 22:6**
- 4. God does not want you to put up with foolishness.**

**C. Discipline will deliver your child from death.**

- 1. Discipline is a test of your love for your child (and for God). 13:24 3:12 *He who spares the rod hates his son. But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.*
  - a. When your child acts foolishly, you have an opportunity to express your love
  - b. Indulging your child's folly and failing to apply the rod is hateful.
  - c. The parent who refuses to chastise a child thinks himself wiser than God.
  - d. Discipline gives your child security.**
- 2. Discipline your child diligently (consistently). 13:24b**
  - a. Discipline is time consuming and inconvenient.
  - b. Don't make empty threats.
  - c. Parents must be in agreement about the standards and methods of discipline
- 3. Start discipline early in your child's life, before it is too late. 19:18 27:22**  
*Discipline your son while there is hope and do not desire his death.*
  - a. When should you begin?
  - b. When should you stop?
- 4. Don't let your child manipulate his way out of chastisement. 23:13-14 *Do not hold back discipline from the child, Although you beat him with the rod he will not die. You shall beat him with the rod and deliver his soul from Sheol.***
  - a. He will do everything he can to get you to stop:
  - b. You do not need to get your child to agree with you!
  - c. It takes a strong love to turn a deaf ear.
  - d. What the child thinks is killing him is actually saving his life!

**D. Apply both the rod and reproof. 29:15a *The rod and reproof give wisdom***

- 1. Discipline must be accompanied by verbal admonition (instruction).**
- 2. If admonition alone works, the rod is not necessary. 17:10 *A rebuke goes deeper into one who has understanding than a hundred blows into a fool.***
- 3. Often verbal reproof is not enough. 10:13 *A rod is for the back of him who lacks understanding. (won't listen)***

**E. Do not misuse discipline. Col. 3:21 *Fathers do not exasperate your children..***

- 1. Childishness is not to be chastised, only foolishness! 22:15**
- 2. Do not punish in anger. 12:16 Ro. 12:17f Mt. 5:21-23**
- 3. Discipline with tenderness and love. 4:3-4 Ps. 103:13 Isa. 66:13 Gal. 6:1**
- 4. Use the minimum amount of force necessary to get the job done.**
- 5. Beware of man-made disciplinary systems which go beyond the Bible.**

**III. Impart wisdom to your children by teaching them. Deu. 4:9-10 6:4-9**

**A. Education takes place in the home! 1:1,8,10,15 2:1 3:1,21 4:10,20 5:1 6:20-23 23:15,19,26 31:2**

- 1. Child training is not primarily the work of the church or the government.**
- 2. You cannot delegate this duty to others.**
- 3. Both parents are to be involved in teaching. 31: 1:8**

**B. Your goal in teaching your children is not merely to control behavior, but to mold character so that you child will be ready to be a wise adult.**

- 1. Teach your children to put on the characteristics of wisdom (self control, truth, diligence, generosity, etc.).**
- 2. Teach your children to view all of truth and reality from God's perspective.**

- C. Train your children formally in the Word: Family worship. Deut. 6:4-7 Isa. 38:19
  - 1. The Word must first be on your heart.
  - 2. Read and explain the Bible to your children.
- D. Teach your children through informal instruction. Deut. 6:7
  - 1. Use every day situations to instruct your children.
  - 2. Your example says as much as, or more than, your words.
  - 3. Place reminders of God's Word throughout your home. Deut. 6:9
- E. Evangelize your children. Deut. 6:20-25 Mt. 18:1-4  
Incorporate the gospel into discipline. We all are sinners who need grace!

**IV. Children, embrace your parent's discipline and instruction.**

- A. Recognize the folly in your own heart.
  - 1. You are fully responsible for your own acts and choices.
  - 2. Co-operate with your parents in the battle to build your character and to eradicate foolishness from your life.
- B. Honor your parents by embracing their discipline. 13:1 12:1 Ps. 119:67 *A wise son accepts his father's discipline. But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.*
  - 1. Don't resist parental discipline. 3:11-12 15:5,10 *A fool rejects his father's discipline, but he who regards reproof is prudent.*
    - a. Don't fight it outwardly. *Don't reject the discipline of the LORD*
    - b. Don't despise it inwardly. *Or loathe His reproof*
  - 2. Your parents are God's tools for your refinement.
  - 3. Ask their forgiveness when you sin and when you resist them.
  - 4. Express appreciation to them for their labors on your behalf. 31:28
- C. Honor your parents by listening to their teaching. 1:8 6:20-23
  - 1. Don't be wise in your own eyes. 3:7
  - 2. Treasure their instruction. 6:20-21
- D. Honor them even when you are grown.
  - 1. Respect their old age. 16:31 23:22-25 17:6
  - 2. Provide for their needs (material and emotional). 19:26 Mt. 15:3-6 I Tim. 5:4,8
- E. Honor your parents by bringing them delight. 10:1 23:24-25 15:20 29:3 III Jn 4
  - 1. Your folly will make them miserable. 17:21,25 28:7 *The father of a fool has no joy.*
  - 2. Your righteousness will give them joy *A wise son makes a father glad... The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, and he who begets a wise son will be glad in him.*
- F. Honor your parents or else!
  - 1. You won't survive unless you respect them. Your lamp will be snuffed out. 20:20 *He who curses his father or his mother, His lamp will go out in time of darkness*
  - 2. God will bring judgement. 30:11,17 *There is a generation of man who curses his father and does not bless his mother... The eye that mocks a father and scorns a mother, the ravens of the valley will pluck it out and the young eagles will eat it.*

**V. Concluding applications: 1:7**

**You can't train your children God's way unless you are God's child.**

**Exercises for Family Worship.**

- 1. Why is the discipline of children necessary?**
- 2. How is our discipline of our children like God's discipline of us?**
- 3. How is discipline a test of love for your child?**
- 4. What is the role of reproof in discipline?**
- 5. How can the discipline be misused?**
- 6. What are the benefits of discipline?**
- 7. What is likely to happen when discipline is neglected?**
- 8. What is the objective of teaching a child?**
- 9. How should a child respond to discipline and instruction?**
- 10. Make a list of things you can do to show appreciation and honor to your mother.**
- 11. Make a list of things you can do to show appreciation and honor to your father.**