

PROVERBS: Wisdom for Life

(Family and Priorities: Proverbs 22:1-6)

Who is your family? Not everyone has a mother/father alive or known. Estranged?

-Most of us are born into a family -i.e. God chooses for us ☺ (good or bad) =purpose!!

-Some family you choose to become your family!

(Single; never married; Divorced, widowed; widowed; single parents; whatever...) **YOU belong here with us!** You are wanted here. You are needed here. UR loved here! [This Message 4 YOU too!](#)

The Importance of family: For most all of us, our family is the first place we develop our worldview: our perspective of love, acceptance, anger, forgiveness, discipline, instruction, help, service, stability, -our view of God; our view of right/wrong; our values (what is worth fighting for); our future family -how we want to repeat/change what we learned.

[some of us positive/some negative – some abuse/devastating] whole life to undo/unlearn/unfeel

Leading a family is so hard; it takes true wisdom, perspective, help, & much grace! [Being in a fam=](#)

READ Proverbs 22:1-6

A good name is to be more desired than great wealth; Favor is better than silver and gold.

² The rich and the poor have a common bond, =The Lord is the Maker of them all.

³ A prudent person sees evil and hides himself, But the naive proceed, and pay the penalty.

⁴ The reward of humility and the fear of the Lord Are riches, honor, and life.

⁵ Thorns and snares are in the way of the perverse; One who guards himself will be far from them.

⁶ Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he grows older he will not abandon it.

7 Eternally WISE Principles about Families, raising a family, and setting eternal priorities:

V.1 *A good name is to be more desired than great wealth; Favor is better than silver and gold.*

Each of us inherit a name (no choice in the matter); family name; earthly identity (=lang./culture)

-More importantly, each of us builds a name for ourselves (real/fake; integrity/cheat; likeable/av

When people here your name, what do they think of? Are you associated w/a mistake frm yrs ago?

• 1865 Dr. Samuel Mudd treated Lincoln assassin John Wilkes Booth's broken leg. =name 'mud'

1. We are to train our children that who they **are** matters infinitely more than what they have; & Train children =**their identity is who God says they are** =Most imp. (NOT success/failure) & yet, what they **do** still matters; how they act; their words; intentions follow'em=consequences b/c their life, choices, and actions will determine how others know/remember **their name**

(what does your name say about you? More imp, what does the Name of Christ say ab. U?)

V.2 *The rich and the poor have a common bond, The Lord is the Maker of them all.* No judge/domine

God is sovereign; **He** puts people in diff. cultures/eras/opportunities **1 talent, some 5 or 10 =do w it?**

2. We are to train our children that it is a waste of time to pursue **wealth** or **whine** about poverty; Rather, we are to train our children to discover their talents/abilities & work hard to grow into the type of people that other want to be around. =Wealthy in friends. **We are to build lives of integrity**

-Ps. 75:6-7 "For not from the east, nor from the west, Nor from the desert comes exaltation;

7 But God is the Judge; He puts down one and exalts another." Most everything is Not in our control

Circle of concern. We need to take responsibility w/ what we have been given (no matter the circumstance) & be faithful & diligent w/ **what we have been given**. To make best of each opport

*God is sovereign, no matter our circumstances (rich/poor; healthy/handicap; upbringing/strugg)

=We will ALL stand before the Lord to answer for what we did w/ what He entrusted to us!!!

[Note 1 Cor. 3:13-20]

V.3 A prudent person sees evil and hides himself, But the naive proceed, and pay the penalty.

3. We are to train children to be sensitive to **sin** & **temptation**; to flee from temptation -*Not* run to ***What are you sensitive to? Allergic? Now =Cedar. Symptoms indicator of a bigger problem; heed it** (1 Cor. 10:13; James 1:12-16; Mt. 26:41); If we love our children =we will model 4 them cons./actio

V.4 The reward of humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, honor, and life. Humility=surrender

4. Rather than pursuing riches, we are to train our children that pursuing God's presence is key to **life** -Mt. 6:33 "**Seek first King. Of God & His righteousness/presence & THEN all these things added to u**"
-There are bigger *riches* than earthly/monetary wealth; Joy; peace; Health; relationships; purpose
-To have a family that *honors* you is more important than physical wealth. = Legacy
-Spiritual *life* always outlasts physical life. Fear of Lord =surrender to Jesus =**etern. life & last. Joy!**
=We are to teach our **kids how to find refuge in the Lord at all times** (Blessings/suffering) b/c the Lord will never fail them when EVERYTHING else in this life will! (What a gift to give this to them!)

V.5 Thorns & snares are in the way of the perverse; One who guards himself will be far from them.

Thorns slow us down & prick us/injure/scar us; snares entrap us & leads to destruction & death

5. We are to train our children to see **sin**, lies, deception for what they are; not attractive/desirable but the way to destruction & death (spiritual death; physical death; eternal death) ***fishing Lure** (Cheating; lying; taking adv./weaker; sexually promiscuous; violence; gambling; alcho; greed; lazy) =**destroyer of lives**; destroyer of spiritual lives; destroyer of families; of legacies; trust; hope; truth!
*As leaders & stewards of our family we cannot just warn/bemoan the sin/vices to avoid=**attractive** BUT, we must model the benefits & **JOY** of obedience to the Lord (**spiritually ALIVE & thriving**) in our lives w/ peace and grace; we must model **contentment** w/our lives/station; **thankfulness!!**
-AND we must model **forgiveness** when our kids fail; when WE fail. Model gentleness & grace

V.6 Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he grows older he will not abandon it.

***This verse is not a promise**; it is rather a warning, a stark reminder of how to rescue your kids' heart. This is a wisdom saying, a truism -**Not a promise or guarantee**. Some of your kids turned out rotten. **So many parents carry the guilt of their own children's foolish, selfish, sinful choices.**

-The gospel reminds us that our identity is not in being a parent, but rather in being **His child!**
-The gospel reminds us that every person is sinful & in need of Christ; that each are **accountable** for our own actions/decisions & **we cannot blame our parents; & parents cannot blame themselves.**
-The gospel reminds us that as long as they are still living, it's never too late for His **grace** to change/melt their **hearts**. We keep praying (Lk 18)-**persistent widow** & begging God for ht change

This proverb states a mandate: **Train your child or else! Or else what? Children left to their own devices, their own desires, their own limited knowledge will **destroy** themselves as adults.

-If you allow your child to do what he/she wants (without accountability or discipline) then you are creating a spoiled, delusional, rotten bratty, maladjusted adult(***Veruca salt Willy**)=**destruction**

6. We are to train[dedicate] our children to taste for/long for **truth**, righteousness, holiness alwa
Why? b/c our children do NOT have a natural taste for godliness (we are selfish/depraved)

7. We are to train our children through loving & consistent **discipline** to teach them accountability to the Lord & authority over their lives. **Discipline itself is God's mechanism (rescue mission) to rescue hearts & souls from utter & eventual ruin/destruction.** (Heb. 12:5-7)

Vs. 6 means **Unless your children are given discipline, they can never gain godly wisdom.** Because our children's hearts (like ours) are **full of foolishness**, God requires us to train/discipline/help drive that foolishness & selfishness from them - in love, over time, w/ grace & consistency.

The clear message of Proverbs, **unlike that of Disney** that reinforces kids to follow their own hearts, is that our children's hearts are full of foolishness. And God wants to grow them out of it! "Loving parents seek to correct the faults foolishness of their children *because* their children's lives, favor, protection, healing, dignity, longevity, & prosperity are at stake." In a world that says let your children do what they want; determine their own sex/gender; lie to their parents; abuse drugs/alcohol/vaping and let the world/social media/peers disciple them....**God says NO!** The home and the Church as the foundational units of society were created FIRST & based on God's Word & moral nature. BUT... "Unloving parents turn their back on their children, give them what they want, refuse to discipline, and in so doing these parents turn their children over "to death, social ruin, public exposure, spiritual calamity, and shameful poverty." NOT Here, NOT now!!!

So let's review. Family life is challenging because of sin. My sin & your sin. Wisdom helps us meet the challenges of family life. **Godly wisdom** will lead single people to be discerning, married people to be protective/nourishing within marriage, & parents to lovingly correct their children.

We need wisdom, grace, consistency, and the gospel:

Pr. 14:26 **Those who fear the Lord have a secure fortress, and for their children it will be a refuge**

APPLICATION

- YOU are the primary discipler of your children (no one else); Church is to come along side you
- You can never delegate/give away your right to shape your kids' morals/worldview (BUT...Your tone, actions, & consistency shape them much more than your words/demands)
- The greatest single gift you can ever give to your family is your own personal holiness (=consistently: **Kids have x-ray vision into our actions:** either sincerity OR hypocrisy)
Pr. 20:7 **The righteous lead blameless lives; blessed are their children after them.**
- You never stop being a discipler of your children's heart. Parenting never stops/just changes how
- What you celebrate together is what you'll replicate; (sports is more important than church?)
- What does your time priorities say about your moral priorities?
- For most of us, it is not too late to make the needed changes in your life to model for your family God's priorities for you. (The key is consistency and *grace*: give grace & don't expect it in return)

If the Lord has granted you a family in these years (or if you are planning to start a family), OR if you are a grandparent, aunt/uncle, godparent, family friend OR even a close neighbor =**YOU/us** =**We are given only a few life-shaping years to form & mold your children for enduring impact; for eternal impact!**

There is more at stake than getting your child into the best schools, best sports teams/clubs, best extracurriculars, and best jobs. There is more to stake than the American dream. Than your child's immature whims, desires, & peerpressure to fit in, belong, have what everyone has & do what everyone else is doing. B/c you can raise your child to be successful in the world's eyes and miss heaven by a mile. **Your child has an eternal destiny! The Lord has called you to train up your child to know God, to love God & His Word, to go to heaven by His grace - and to take as many others as possible with them.**

Lord of the Rings: Gollum (most miserable of creatures) could not let go of the Ring; “my precious” = lost everything else important to him in his life, & eventually lost the ring too.

-What false treasure/hope are you clinging to that is ruining your life & your family’s life?

-What do you need to lose in order to gain the greatest treasure of Christ & et. life?

-What lie/delusion do you need to surrender to the Lord in order to get your life back?

[Keeping up w/the Jones’? Being a slave to your schedule; the calendar; kid’s sports; what you wear; drive; where you vacation; your image?] – Have you begun to lose your children because they see you chasing all the wrong things, non-eternal things in this life?]

-What will you do to get back your family? To lead your family? To become the man of God, woman of God He has created you to be for your family?