



ACCORDING
PARENTING
TO THE BIBLE

*... from childhood you have
known the sacred writings . . .
2 Timothy 3:15*

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Forward

Many years ago, when I was a young mother of one small daughter, I was asked to speak to the wives at a pastor's conference on the topic of parenting. Alas, who was I to address such a weighty, expansive topic with so little experience myself? What could I say? How could I be a help to mothers who had multiple children, teenage children, and especially those with young adult children who had strayed from the Lord and their upbringing? Feeling completely unequipped and inadequate, I delved into the Scriptures to find any and everything I could find on the topic of being a parent. Did God have much to say about this universally applicable subject? Was what God had said sufficient for what parents needed to know? What **did** He say?

The material in this booklet is a compilation of my findings in outline form. It has been edited and expanded numerous times over the years, but the essence is the same—the Scripture hasn't changed. God is still saying what He has always said to parents. I have shared some of my thoughts and applications as well as some from others that I hope you will find helpful.

When I spoke at that first conference, I couldn't say, "This is what I did that worked well and these are the things I learned that I would do differently." All I could say was, "These are my goals and guidelines as I understand them from the Bible. This is what I am attempting to do by the grace and strength of the Lord. I am walking by faith in what God has said and trusting Him to bless His Word."

Now, years later, I can say with confidence, "What God has said is sufficient and He is faithful to His every Word. Where I have submitted to carry out His Word in the rearing of my children, He has abundantly blessed. Are my children perfect models of the results of parenting according to the Bible? Of course not. Are there things I would do differently or more diligently? Absolutely! But any deficiency in the upbringing of my three daughters is on my part, not His.

We all understand that there is no foolproof formula for parents in rearing children to know, love, and serve their Creator. Even “perfect” parents could not be guaranteed success. What we **can** do is humble ourselves before our heavenly Father, diligently follow His instructions, ask for His abundant grace and generous wisdom, plead for His mercy, and leave the results to our Sovereign Lord.

I present this material to you as from one mom to another mom and pray that it will benefit you as it has benefited me. However, to get the full impact of its content and in order for it to have practical application to you individually, I recommend that you spend some time meditating and praying over these Scripture passages. In fact, make it a lifetime and frequent practice as you “mother” your children.

~Linda Minnick



PARENTING According to the BIBLE

*And that from childhood you have known
the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom
that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for
reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;
¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate,
equipped for every good work.
2 Timothy 3:15-17*

Parenting—a Priority

Mothers have many and varied responsibilities. Among those responsibilities where in the list of Biblical priorities are your children?

2 Timothy 3:2-5 An overseer...must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?).

- A church leader is chosen not only to lead but also to be an **example** for others. An **example** is one to be followed. (Titus 2:7) **All** the fathers were to be governing their families in the same way as the leaders.
- The responsibility for the family is clearly the husband's/father's, but the wives/mothers play a major role in governing the children. Moms carrying out of the discipleship of the children is part of being a "helper suitable" (Genesis 2:18) for her husband.

Titus 1:5-7 ...appoint elders in every city as I directed you, namely, if any man is **above reproach**...having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. For the overseer must be **above reproach** as God's steward...

- (Dissipation: *intemperate living; especially excessive drinking; an act of self-indulgence.*)
- Moms, be a helper in keeping your husband's testimony "above reproach."

"Well do I remember hearing my father speak of an incident that greatly impressed him. He used to be frequently away from home preaching, and at one time, as he was on his way to a service, he feared that he was neglecting his own family while caring for the souls of others. He therefore turned back and went to his home. On arriving there, he was surprised to find no one in the lower rooms of the house but, on ascending the stairs, he heard a sound as of someone engaged in prayer. On listening at the bedroom door, he discovered that it was my mother, pleading most earnestly for the salvation of all her children, and specially praying for Charles, her first-born and strong-willed son. My father felt that he might safely go about his Master's business while his dear wife was caring so well for the spiritual interests of the boys and girls at home, so he did not disturb her, but proceeded at once to fulfill his preaching engagement."

— C. H. Spurgeon

Titus 2:1-5 But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine... Older women likewise are to be...teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the young women...to **love** their children,...**so that the word of God will not be dishonored.**

- Be a loving mother in keeping the testimony of the **Word of God** "above reproach!"

Parenting—According to 2 Tim 3:15-17

2 Timothy 3:15-17 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

What can we learn from this passage that applies to parenting?

1. Children are capable of learning Scripture—Timothy did.
2. We should teach them Scripture when they're young—Timothy's mother and grandmother did (inferred from 1:5), and it impacted the course of his life.
3. Knowing the Scriptures is able to make them wise.
4. Knowing the Scriptures is able to lead them to salvation.
5. Scripture is your authority as a parent—it is directly from God.
6. Scripture is your source of instruction—it is infallible.
7. They **will** definitely profit from Scripture.
8. Use Scripture to reprove them.
9. Use Scripture to correct them.
10. Use Scripture to train them in righteousness.
11. Scripture will fully prepare and equip them for service.

The Scriptures then are both a **Handbook** for you, the teacher, and a **Textbook** from which to teach your children.



1. Love Your Children

How do you love your children? Doesn't it just come naturally?

A. Agape – emphasizing the selfless love that gives and gives, with no expectation of return, what it knows is best for the beloved.

See Appendix 1: *1 Corinthians 13 (annotated)*
Frequently do a Self-Check!

B. Phileo – emphasizing the tender affection of our feelings for the beloved.

Titus 2:3-5 Older women likewise are to be...teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the young women...to love (phileo) their children...

- Because of the disciplinary nature of “training” our children in righteousness, the affection aspect of love is often overcome with frustration, impatience, and worst of all, anger.

No job on earth takes more physical, mental, social, emotional, and spiritual strength than being a good wife and mother. If a woman is looking for the easy life she might try teaching tennis, cutting diamonds, or joining a roller derby team. There is nothing easy about good mothering. It can be back breaking, heart wrenching and anxiety producing. And that's just the morning.

– Stephen and Janet Bly

Our Heavenly Father wants us to love, agape **and** phileo, our children completely, continually, in every circumstance, and all the time just like He loves us!

2. But First... “give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently!” (Deuteronomy 4:9)

How critical is my relationship with God in respect to the relationship of my children with God?

A. My Example:

*Exodus 20:5 (Deuteronomy 5:9) “You shall not worship them (idols) or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, **visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me.**”*

*Exodus 34:6-7 Then the LORD passed by in front of him (Moses) and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet **He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.**”*

*Numbers 14:18 The LORD is slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but **He will by no means clear the guilty (unbelieving), visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generations.***

- Does this mean God judges my children for my sin!?

Deuteronomy 24:16 Fathers shall not be put to death for their sons, nor shall sons be put to death for their fathers; everyone shall be put to death for his own sin.

Children would feel the impact of breaches of God’s law by their parents’ generation as a natural consequence of its disobedience, its hatred of God. Children reared in such an environment would imbibe and then practice similar idolatry, thus themselves expressing hateful disobedience... The effect of a disobedient generation was to plant wickedness so deeply that it took several generations to reverse. – John MacArthur Study Bible

The consequences of conduct do not die with the doers. “The evil that men do, lives after them.” The generations are so knit together, and the full results of deeds are often so slow-growing, that one generation sows and another reaps.” – Alexander MacLaren

*Exodus 34:6-7 Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; **who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin....***

Numbers 14:18 The LORD is slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression...

- Know the true heart of God for you and your posterity!
*Deuteronomy 5:29 Oh that they (God’s people) had such a heart in them, that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always, **that it may be well with them and with their sons forever!***

*Deuteronomy 12:25 You shall not eat it (blood), **so that it may be well with you and your sons after you**, for you will be doing what is right in the sight of the LORD.*

*Deuteronomy 12:28 Be careful to listen to all these words which I command you, **so that it may be well with you and your sons after you forever**, for you will be doing what is good and right in the sight of the LORD your God.*

- You cannot be a truly loving mother without your own transformation into the image of Christ.
- Your relationship with the Lord, or lack thereof, has much to do with how your children will respond to the Lord and--that influence extends to your grandchildren and beyond!

What I put into my children on a daily basis—seeds of patience or impatience, faith or lack of faith, kindness or selfishness—would be what I might gain back in years to come. – Elizabeth George

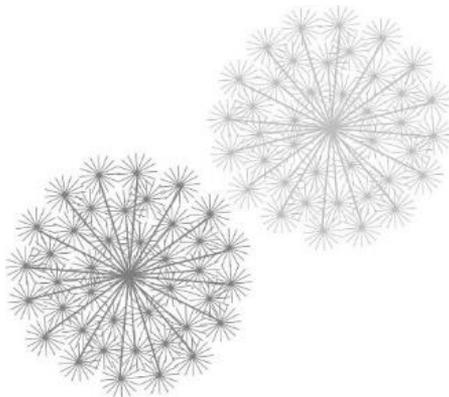
B. My Equipping:

- Every mom needs to be equipped to set an example and equipped to teach.
- How does that happen? Choose the one necessary thing, like Mary.

*Luke 10:42 but **only one thing is necessary**, for Mary **has chosen** the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."*

At a pastoral conference, held not long since, at which about one hundred and twenty American clergymen, united in the bonds of a common faith, were assembled, each was invited to state the human instrumentality to which, under the Divine blessing, he attributed a change of heart. How many of these, think you, gave the honour of it to their mother? Of one hundred and twenty, above one hundred! Here then are facts, which are only selected from myriads of others, to prove a mother's power, and to demonstrate at the same time her responsibility. — John Angell James

*2 Timothy 3:17 So that the man/woman of God may be adequate, **equipped** for every good work.*



3. Love is Teaching Your Children

What is my responsibility before God toward my children?

*Ephesians 6:4 ...but bring them up in the discipline and **instruction** of the Lord.*

A. A Mandate from God

*Genesis 18:19 For I have chosen him (Abraham), so that he may **command his children** and his household **after him to keep the way of the LORD** by doing righteousness and justice, **so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him.***

What did God say that He was going to bring about through Abraham? vv. 17-18

*The LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and **in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed?**"*

- Likewise, God has chosen you to command your children after you in His ways in order to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout all the nations of the earth.

*Deuteronomy 4:9 Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; **but make them known (teach) to your sons and your grandsons.***

See Appendix 2: Meditations on Psalm 145

*Deuteronomy 4:10 Remember the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when the LORD said to me, 'Assemble the people to Me, that I may let them hear **My words** (faith comes by hearing) so they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and **that they may teach their children.**'"*

*Deuteronomy 32:46 He said to them, "Take to your heart **all the words** with which I am warning you today, which you shall **command your sons to observe** carefully, even **all the words** of this law."*

- You cannot "expect" your children to believe and live **anything** that you yourself have not taught them! Example is essential but not enough.

*Psalm 78:5-8 For He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers that they should **teach them to their children**, that the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born, that they may arise and tell them to their children,*
(Goal of teaching)

1. That they should **put their confidence in God** (personally)
2. And **not forget the works of God**,
3. But **keep His commandments**.

*Deuteronomy 6:6-7 (Deuteronomy 11:19) These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart—(first...then) You shall **teach them diligently to your sons** and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.*

- i.e., all the time—which means that you be **with** them and know God’s Words yourself!

*A woman after God’s own heart is first and foremost a woman who has in her own heart a deep and abiding passion for God’s Word. And her children—not the children at her church; not the women at her church; not her friends, her neighbors, or anyone else—are to receive the firstfruits of this burning personal passion. The Bible speaks twice of “the Law” or teaching of the mother (Proverbs 1:8; 6:20), indicating that **you and I, as mothers, are on assignment from God to teach His Word to our children**. You and I can do many things for our children, but teaching God’s Word must be our passion. – Elizabeth George*

Dear Moms, this is God’s plan – practice it by faith!

B. A Method from God

1. The Commandment

The Foundation of God’s Method is the Fifth Commandment.

Ephesians 6:2-3 Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.

Perhaps the most important thing we as parents must teach our children is the 5th Commandment!

- To “honor” means to “give weight to” or to “highly value.” God intends for your children to grow up giving such weight to what you say and so highly valuing your instruction about Himself that they will readily receive the truths you teach them about Him.
- Honoring you is foundational to their responses to God after they become believers because it is where they learn submission to the voice of authority.
- According to the fifth commandment, honoring their parents is vital to their “well-being” in this life.

2. The Example

The Proverbs Parent is an example of God’s Method.

- Look at the book of Proverbs not only as a list of wise counsel for you to apply to your life, but also as an example of how to parent teens and young adults.
- Look for:
 - the “my son” passages. (23 times)
 - what the father wants his son to remember and keep.
 - the father’s appeal for his son’s heart.
 - the reward.

See Appendix 3: *The Importance of and Application of the Fifth Commandment*

The parent/child relationship prescribed in the Fifth Commandment is God’s Perfect and All-wise plan for the teaching and training of your children!

2 Timothy 3:15 ...and that from **childhood** you have known the sacred writings...
(and that was only the Old Testament Scriptures!)

4. Love's Goals for Teaching Our Children

What should be your priorities in the things that you teach your children?

A. The Greatest Commandment

What is the highest ultimate desire that you could ever have for your children?

Mark 12:30 AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.'

- Don't settle for less than the best! Not just to know Him. Not just to serve Him. But to Love Him!
- Let the Love of God be your guiding light! Write it on the 'door-posts' of you house!

B. Salvation

The Love of God begins with a new heart.

- Be discerning of your child's spiritual state.

It is not always those who have the most religious privileges who give Christ the most honor... How often the very persons who live nearest to the means of grace are those who neglect them most! There is only too much truth in the old proverb, "the nearer the church, the further from God." Familiarity with sacred things has an awful tendency to make men despise them. There may be knowledge of Scripture in the head, while there is no grace in the heart. – J. C. Ryle

- How do you lead a child to Christ?
 - Follow the example of Timothy's mother and grandmother . . .

2 Timothy 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

- **Teach** the gospel to them, the same as anyone else you want to lead to Christ.
- Don't try to "save" them yourself—let the Bible do its work.
- Don't leave out the negative part: not as a threat but as sobering truth.

I cannot tell how much I owe to the solemn words of my good mother. It was the custom on Sunday evenings, while we were yet little children, for her to stay at home with us, and then we sat round the table, and read verse by verse, and she explained the Scripture to us. After that was done, then came the time of pleading; there was a little piece of Alleine's "Alarm," or of Baxter's "Call to the Unconverted," and this was read with pointed observations made to each of us as we sat round the table; and the question was asked, how long it would be before we would think about our state, how long before we would seek the Lord. Then came a mother's prayer, and some of the words of that prayer we shall never forget, even when our hair is grey. I remember, on one occasion, her praying thus: "Now, Lord, if my children go on in their sins, it will not be from ignorance that they perish, and my soul must bear a swift witness against them at the day of judgment if they lay not hold of Christ." That thought of a mother's bearing swift witness against me, pierced my conscience, and stirred my heart. — C. H. Spurgeon

- Let them come.

Matthew 19:14, (Luke 18:16) But Jesus said, "Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

- Don't be concerned that they don't have full understanding.
- Continue teaching them the truths of the Gospel even after they have confessed Christ and understanding will come.

C. Christ-like Character

*Proverbs 20:11 It is by his deeds that a lad distinguishes himself if his **conduct is pure and right.***

- Our conduct/behavior is a combination of our character and our personality.
 - Channel personality: personality is assigned at conception! And, every personality has its assets and its liabilities which need to be channeled for good.
 - Train character: character is attained over time and is what enables us to channel our personality.
- The character of **wisdom.**

*Ecclesiastes 4:13 A poor yet **wise** lad is better than an old and foolish king who no longer knows how to receive instruction.*

- What is wisdom? – The skill to live what you know.
- Wisdom is the thing that we all are completely lacking in at birth. It is contrary to our sinful human nature. The opposite of wisdom is Folly. The hearts of your children are bound up in foolishness!

Proverbs 22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child...

- Wisdom is something to be acquired.

*Proverbs 4:7 The beginning of **wisdom** is: acquire **wisdom**; and with all your acquiring, get **understanding.***

- Wisdom is embodied in the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Colossians 2:2-3 ...attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of **wisdom** and knowledge.*

- Consequences of training or failing to train your child to acquire Wisdom.

*Proverbs 10:1 The proverbs of Solomon. A **wise** son makes a father glad, but a foolish son is a grief to his mother.*

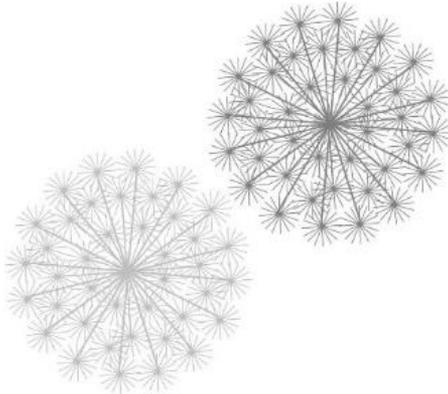
*Proverbs 15:20 A **wise** son makes a father glad, but a foolish man despises his mother.*

*Proverbs 23:24-25 The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, and he who sires a **wise** son will be glad in him. Let your father and your mother be glad, and let her rejoice who gave birth to you.*

*Proverbs 29:3 A man who loves **wisdom** makes his father glad, but he who keeps company with harlots wastes his wealth.*

See Appendix 4: *Wisdom* for further study.

2 Timothy 3:15 ...the sacred writings which are able to give you the **wisdom**...



5. Conduct/Behavior of a Wise Child

How will you know if your child is becoming wise?

A. Honoring

*Deuteronomy 5:16 **Honor** your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be prolonged and that it may go well with you on the land which the LORD your God gives you."*

Ephesians 6:2-3 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

When a child has grown into adulthood, if he has learned to honor you as God commands, he will wisely seek you out for counsel in all the matters of life and it will be "well with him."

B. Obedient

*Ephesians 6:1 Children, **obey** your parents in the Lord, for this is right.*

*Colossians 3:20 Children, **be obedient** to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.*

- An obedient child has learned to listen to your voice like the mighty angels listen to God's voice.

*Psalms 103:20 Bless the LORD, you His angels, Mighty in strength, **who perform His word, Obeying the voice of His word!***

- If he has learned to obey your voice, he will be better prepared to obey to God's voice.

C. Willing to be governed

1 Timothy 3:4 He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity.

Titus 1:6 If any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation (riot) or rebellion (unruly).

- At no point in life are we **not** subject to someone. Children who have learned to be governed by their parents will make for good citizens of a country and good servants of the Lord.

2 Timothy 3:16 *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable...for **training in righteousness.***



6. Love Disciplines/Corrects

If foolishness, which is the opposite of wisdom, is bound up in the hearts of your children how do they become wise?

*Proverbs 22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of **discipline** will remove it far from him.*

*Ephesians 6:4 ...but bring them up in the **discipline** and instruction of the Lord.*

*Proverbs 3:12 For whom the LORD loves He reproveth, Even as a father **corrects** the son in whom he delights.*

*Proverbs 13:1 A wise son accepts his father's **discipline**, But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.*

*Proverbs 13:24 ...But he who loves him **disciplines** him diligently.*

*Proverbs 19:18 **Discipline** your son while there is hope, And do not desire his death.*

*Proverbs 23:13a Do not hold back **discipline** from the child...*

*Proverbs 29:17 **Correct** your son, and he will give you comfort (rest); He will also delight your soul.*

*Hebrews 12:5-11 ...and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE **DISCIPLINE** OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE **DISCIPLINES**, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES." It is for **discipline** that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not **discipline**? But if you are without **discipline**, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to **discipline** us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? For they **disciplined** us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He **disciplines** us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. All **discipline** for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.*

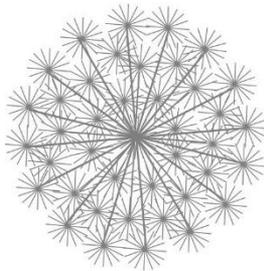
- Love is not indulgence.

Soul love (i.e. loving the soul of your child) is the soul of all love. To pet, pamper, and indulge your child as if this world was all he had to look to and this life the only season for happiness—to do this is not true love, but cruelty. J.C. Ryle

- Love must accompany all correction. Unloving discipline is punishment not training. There is absolutely no room for anger and impatience out of personal frustration!

See *Appendix 5: Discipline* for further study.

2 Timothy 3:16 *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable...for **correction...***



7. Love's Tools of Discipline/Correction

There are two tools that our Heavenly Father has instructed us to use for the discipline/correction of our own children in order to bring them from **folly** to **wisdom**.

*Proverbs 29:15 **The rod** and **reproof** give wisdom, But a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.*

- The two *tools* of correction: **the rod** and **the reproof of Scripture**.
 - They are both applied by faith, not because “it works”— you won’t see that it has worked or not until it’s too late!
 - They are applied in differing proportions as the child grows older.
 - Their function is to train the conscience and convince of the truth (reach the heart) rather than forcing conformity.
- The transition from the rod to the reproof of Scripture is critical and challenging. The manner of reproof also has to transition from speaking to a young person to speaking to an adult. There comes a time when you can no longer “tell” them what to do. You have to learn to be like the parent of Proverbs who gave his son words of wisdom and appealed to his son to listen to his counsel and trust his wisdom, i.e. give him his heart.

The Rod

*Proverbs 22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The **rod** of discipline will remove it far from him.*

Foolishness—according to Proverbs

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| ✓ Pride | ✓ Stubbornness |
| ✓ Being wise in his own eyes | ✓ Mischievousness |
| ✓ No understanding | ✓ Mocking sin |
| ✓ Hating knowledge | ✓ Lack of control |
| ✓ Deceitfulness | ✓ Quick tempered |
| | ✓ Speaking foolishness |

- The fool says in his heart there is no God, so the rod of discipline actually contributes to his belief in God as it drives foolishness from Him.

*Proverbs 23:13-14 Do not hold back discipline from the child, although you strike him with **the rod**, he will not die. You shall strike him with the **rod** and rescue his soul from Sheol.*

*Proverbs 13:24 He who withholds his **rod** hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently.*

The Reproof

*2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, **for reproof**, for correction, for training in righteousness.*

*Proverbs 3:11-12 My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD Or loathe His **reproof**, for whom the LORD loves He **reproves**, Even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights.*

*Proverbs 6:23 For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light; And **reproofs** for discipline are the way of life*

*Proverbs 15:5 A fool rejects his father's discipline, But he who regards **reproof** is sensible.*

*Ephesians 6:4 ...bring them up in the **discipline** and instruction of the Lord.*

- The word “discipline” in Ephesians 6:4 includes both verbal instruction and physical discipline. (Listen to Father’s Day sermons June 19, 2022 by Pastor Minnick.)
- The power of the Word of God is just as effectual for “training in righteousness” as it is for “salvation”! Let the Bible do its work!

See *Appendix 6: Reproof* for further study.

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable...for **reproof**...

8. Love Does Not Provoke

*Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, **do not provoke** your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

*Colossians 3:21 Fathers, **do not exasperate** your children, so that they will not lose heart.*

- How is this done?
 - Chastening without love
 - Love without chastening
 - The rod without reproof
 - Reproof without the rod
 - Leaving them to themselves
 - Forcing conformity: You cannot “coerce” a *heart!*
 - Teaching the right thing in the wrong way

- (Listen to the Father’s Day sermons June 19, 2022 by Pastor Minnick for further explanation on the following thoughts on how our children are provoked to anger or exasperated.)
 - Harsh hurtful words
 - Unreasonable demands
 - Conspicuous favoritism
 - Injustice/unfairness
 - Failure to deal with a sibling’s wrongdoing
 - Refusal to reconcile/forgive

- Understand that just because your children get angry or resentful does not necessarily mean “you” have provoked them. More likely it is their sinful flesh rebelling against your godly parenting.

2 Timothy 3:15-17 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.



*Her children
rise up
and bless her.
Proverbs 31:28*

Resources for further reading:

A Woman After God's Own Heart by Elizabeth George

A Woman's High Calling by Elizabeth George

Don't Make Me Count to Three by Ginger Hubbard

Life in the Spirit by D.M. Lloyd-Jones

Parenting by Paul David Tripp

Shaping of a Christian Family by Elizabeth Elliot

Shepherding a Child's Heart by Tedd Tripp

Theology of the Family edited by Jeff Pollack and Scott Brown

Free Grace Broadcaster: Bringing Up Children

The corresponding chapter in *Theology of the Family* is Chapter 5 entitled, "Childbearing." There are two articles included in the book which are not in the *Free Grace Broadcaster* that could be helpful.

- "General Duties of Parents to Children" by John Bunyan
- "Children to Be Educated for Christ" by Edward W. Hooker

Appendix 1: 1 Corinthians 13

Love is patient Eph 4:2 *With all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love.*

{ is patient with people who arouse my “heat,” e.g., anger, bitterness, haughtiness, resentment, etc.

and is kind Eph 4:31-32 *Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.*

{ is easy on people: good, gentle, gracious, generous, tenderhearted, even to the unthankful and evil

is not jealous (zealous for self) Gal 5:26 *Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.*

{ does not have selfish desires but rejoices in and thanks God for others' achievements

love does not brag (boast) Phil 2:3 *Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves.*

{ is not self-assertive or ostentatious in order to call attention to oneself to gain admiration and approval

is not arrogant (proud) Rom 12:3 *For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.*

{ is not, from a sense of superior knowledge, arrogant or inflated with one's own opinions and importance

does not act unbecomingly (is courteous) Rom 12:10a *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.*

{ does not act inappropriately, disgracefully, rudely or eccentrically in word or deed to call attention to one's own idiosyncrasies

it does not seek its own (self-seeking) Phi 2:4 *Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.*

{ is not self-seeking but generously extends oneself to others in word and deed

is not provoked (not exasperated, irritated) Jam 1:19 *This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.*

{ abstains from exasperation, irritation and “short-fusedness” with others

does not take into account a wrong suffered 2 Tim 2:24 *The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all. . . patient when wronged.*

{ does not "make an account of" evils suffered but forgives and forgets
{ just as God "remembers our sins no more"

does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth;

Eph 4:14-15 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ.

{ does not delight in discovering another's dark side but rejoices in
{ another's good character

bears all things (covers all sin) 1 Pet 4:8 *Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.*

{ covers other people's failures by shielding them from public display

believes all (good) things Rom 14:10 *But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.*

{ accepts another's words without suspicion and deals generously in
{ doubtful cases

hopes all things Col 3:12-13a *So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, . . .*

{ gives others the benefit of the doubt when they could be misread;
{ interprets their intentions with generous optimism

endures all things (hardship) Rom 15:1-2 *Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves. Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.*

{ for the sake of the one loved, triumphantly bears up under the
{ hardships encountered in loving that person

Appendix 2: Meditation on Psalm 145

1 A Psalm of Praise, of David.

I will extol You, my God, O King, And I will bless Your name forever and ever.

2 Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever.

Is that what I do? Do my teenage children hear me every day giving praise to the Lord for something?

3 Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable.

Do my children know that's the way I feel about God? Is that my testimony with them or do they hear me complaining about my providential circumstances, or do they see my faith failing under pressure? Is God great in their eyes because He's great in my eyes?

Now, here's the declaration:

4 One generation shall praise Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts.

How is that done? First of all, meditate!

5 On the glorious splendor of Your majesty and on Your wonderful works, I will meditate.

Then start talking.

6 Men shall speak of the power of Your awesome acts, and I will tell of Your greatness.

Talk about . . .

. . . the power of His awesome acts,

Read the Old Testament stories of Noah and Abraham and Moses and Daniel and talk about them. Talk about the virgin birth of Jesus, His miracles, His sacrifice of Himself for our sin, His resurrection. Study with them through the book of Acts and talk about the power of God in the building of the early church. Read about the lives of servants of God in the past, people like William Carey, and Mary Slessor, and Adoniram Judson and talk about the display of God's awesome power in their lives. Teens love that word "awesome." Give them something truly awesome to talk about. What about your

own life? Have you ever told them about the awesome acts that God has done in your own life? You might have to do a little more meditation yourself to come up with those. 😊 They're there, you just might not have recognized them as such.

Talk about . . .

. . . ***His greatness.***

It's so easy to see in creation; the vastness of it, the intricacy of it. Take a trip to the mountains or to the ocean or just go out and look at the stars on a clear night. Watch a "Planet Earth" DVD and marvel with them over God's design in nature.

7 They shall eagerly utter the memory of Your abundant goodness

Have you taught your teens about the abundant goodness of God by eagerly uttering the memory of it in your own life? What about in their lives; do they see it there? Do you ever say, "Remember when God..." and then remind them of some provision God gave to them? ***And will shout joyfully of Your righteousness.***

What about doing a study in the Scriptures of the righteousness of Christ together? Maybe you could find a good book to read together about it. If you really comprehend the core truths of the Gospel, it is guaranteed to make you shout for joy and gratitude.

Can you testify to these truths about God?

8 The LORD is gracious and merciful; slow to anger and great in lovingkindness.

9 The LORD is good to all, and His mercies are over all His works.

10 All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD, and Your godly ones shall bless You.

Are you one of His "godly ones?" Are you recognizing all the blessings of the LORD in your lives setting the example for your children of thanking and blessing Him for it?

11 They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom and talk of Your power.
Why?

12 To make known to the sons of men Your mighty acts and the glory of the majesty of Your kingdom.

If His “godly ones” don’t speak, who will?

13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations.

Do your teenage children understand about the Kingdom of God?

Have you pointed out to them the benefits of those who are citizens of His kingdom?

14 The LORD sustains all who fall and raises up all who are bowed down.

15 The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due time.

16 You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

17 The LORD is righteous in all His ways and kind in all His deeds.

18 The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.

19 He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He will also hear their cry and will save them.

20 The LORD keeps all who love Him,

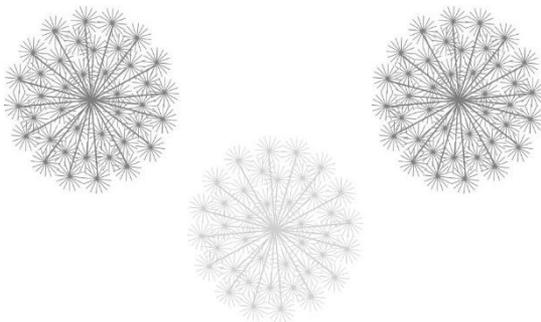
Is this YOUR “testimony?”

And as hard as it is, you need to include this part too.

But all the wicked He will destroy.

Don’t be afraid to talk about it. Do they think it is unrighteous of God? Let the Scripture answer their questions.

21 My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, And all flesh will bless His holy name forever and ever. AMEN!



Appendix 3: The Importance of and Application of the Fifth Commandment— “Honor Your Father and Mother”

Deuteronomy 5:16 **Honor** your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

Ephesians 6:2-3 **HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER** (which is the first commandment with a promise), SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

The commandment to HONOR father and mother is stated twice in its completion in the Old Testament and once in the New Testament. It is quoted by Jesus Himself in five passages in the Gospels. So, we have a Hebrew word for HONOR from the Old Testament and a Greek word for HONOR from the New Testament. The Hebrew word means “weighty,” to give weight to something as in ‘importance.’ The Greek word means to “highly value” or prize something. So, the commandment means to give weight to or highly value father and mother.

God’s Will: The Fifth Commandment

The Ten Commandments are an expression of God’s will. It is His WILL that we HONOR our fathers and mothers.

Exodus 20:12 Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.

Like all the Ten Commandments, the commandment to HONOR father and mother is:

- 1. Universal**—it is to be practiced by EVERYONE.
- 2. Unconditional**—it is to be applied to EVERY father and mother.
- 3. Eternal**—it extends throughout ALL generations.
- 4. Durational**--it is to be observed throughout the duration of YOUR life.

Note: Although all men are held accountable to obey the moral Law of God, we should note that the actual commandments were given to God's people: the nation Israel in the Old Testament, and the Church in the New Testament. We, of all people, should honor the Lord God by obedience to His Word.

The Unique Characteristics of the Fifth Commandment

The Ten Commandments are in two sections. The first four have to do with our relationship to God; the other six concern our relationships with other people. Consider how the following unique characteristics heighten the importance of the fifth commandment.

1. Placement: Being first in the list of people relationships gives the fifth commandment a position of importance. They are all important, but it is significant that it is first. If you were making the list in order of importance, would you have listed this one ahead of "murder" and "adultery?" How quick we are to correct our children when they tell a lie, and yet how often we overlook and tolerate dishonor and disrespect toward us.

2. Specific: The fifth commandment is concerning two very specific people, father and mother, whereas all the others are to be applied to people in general. And, of all the specific relationships he could have focused on, He didn't mention our husbands, our children, servants, masters, neighbors, etc., He focused on this one relationship...Honor **your parents**.

3. Unique: It is the only commandment in the Bible addressed directly to us as children of our earthly parents.

4. Responsibility: He places the responsibility for the parent/child relationship on the children by addressing the children instead of the parent. The New Testament quotation in Ephesians 6 adds an admonition to the fathers, but the child's response is not conditional on the father's performance:

Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

5. Promise: According to Ephesians 6:2 the fifth commandment is the first commandment with a promise and, in this list, the only one.

Ephesians 6:2-3 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

Deuteronomy 5:16 "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

Also note that the version of the promise in Ephesians 6 has been altered from the version in the Old Testament to fit the people to whom it is addressed, the New Testament Church. The Church of Jesus Christ is not promised a 'land' in this life. Our inheritance is yet to come.

How strongly does God feel about the Fifth Commandment?

1. He declared a curse on those who disobey this commandment.

Deuteronomy 27:11, 16 Moses also charged the people on that day, saying,... (He begins a list of things God curses. The first is making idols. The second is...)

*'Cursed is he who **dishonors** his father or mother.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'*

2. He said that to disobey is worthy of death.

There are 16 things in the law that required the death penalty. They include...

Exodus 21:15, 17

*He who **strikes** his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.*

*He who **curses** his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.*

Other grave warnings are found in:

*Proverbs 20:20 He who **curses** his father or his mother, His lamp will go out in time of darkness.*

*Proverbs 30:11-14, 17 There is a kind of man who **curse his father** and **does not bless his mother** (contrast with Proverbs 31—her children rise up and bless her).*

There is a kind who is pure in his own eyes yet is not washed from his filthiness. (Self-deceived)

There is a kind—oh, how lofty are his eyes! And his eyelids are raised in arrogance. (Proud)

There is a kind of man whose teeth are like swords and his jaw teeth like knives, to devour the afflicted from the earth and the needy from among men. (Malicious)

*The eye that **mocks a father** and **scorns a mother**, the ravens of the valley will pick it out, and the young eagles will eat it.*

Jesus reinforces the gravity of the Old Testament Law when speaking to those who claimed to be righteous toward their parents but were not.

Matthew 15:4 For God said, 'HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER,' and, 'HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH.'

Jesus internalized all of His commandments concerning one another and said that if even our feelings, attitudes, or thoughts toward another person are wrong, we have sinned just the same as if we had actually turned our feelings, attitudes, and thoughts into an 'act' of sin.

3. He labels the one who dishonors his father or mother as 'a fool.'

*Proverbs 10:1 A wise son makes a father glad, but a **foolish son** is a grief to his mother.*

*15:20 A wise son makes a father glad, but a **foolish man** despises his mother.*

*17:2 A **foolish son** is a grief to his father and is bitterness to her who bore him.*

*15:5 A **fool** rejects his father's discipline, but he who regards reproof is sensible.*

Application of the Fifth Commandment

Leviticus 19:1-3 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: "Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, 'You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy....'"

How can they be holy?

Every one of you shall reverence his mother and his father,...I am the LORD your God.

How does one HONOR/give weight to or highly value parents? Is it by just **not** striking or cursing them? Is it by being always kind and loving toward them? Certainly, all those things go without saying! We are to treat everyone in that way. So, what is distinctive about children and youth honoring fathers and mothers?

The following passages from the Book of Proverbs teach and illustrate how this is done. Remember though, these Proverbs passages are assuming that the fathers and mothers are God-fearing believing parents. That doesn't mean their parenting is flawless, but if you and I can say with the writer of Proverbs, "*I have directed you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in upright paths,*" (4:11) then in all sincerity and earnestness, we can appeal to our sons and daughters to give heed to our instruction.

Also, keep in mind that the book of Proverbs is written to "youth," teens and young adults, who are preparing for the responsibilities and cares of life. Listen in to the counsel of this wise father to his son.

Parenting According to Proverbs: From the Book of Wisdom

Key:

The request—Red

The object of the request—Green

The promise—Purple

Note the HEART--Blue

1:8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching;

1:9 Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head and ornaments about your neck.

2:1 **My son**, if you *receive my words* and *treasure up my commandments* with you,
2:2 making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your **heart** to understanding;
2:5 ...then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. (ESV)

3:1 **My son**, do not forget my teaching, but let your **heart** keep my commandments;
3:2 For length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.

4:1 Hear, **O sons**, the *instruction of a father*, and give attention that you may gain understanding,
4:2 For I give you sound teaching; *Do not abandon my instruction.*
(If you have godly parents you can also say the following.)
4:3 When I was a son to my father, tender and the only son in the sight of my mother,
4:4 Then he taught me and said to me, "*Let your heart hold fast my words; Keep my commandments* and live;
4:5 Acquire wisdom! Acquire understanding! *Do not forget nor turn away from the words of my mouth.*"

4:10 Hear, **my son**, and *accept my sayings* and the years of your life will be many.
4:11 I have directed you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in upright paths.
4:12 When you walk, your steps will not be impeded; and if you run, you will not stumble.

4:20 **My son**, *give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings.*
4:21 Do not let them depart from your sight; keep them in the midst of your **heart**.
4:22 For they are life to those who find them and health to all their body.
4:23 Watch over your **heart** with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.

5:1 **My son**, *give attention to my wisdom, incline your ear to my understanding;*
5:2 That you may observe discretion and your lips may reserve knowledge.

6:20 **My son**, *observe the commandment of your father and do not forsake the teaching of your mother;*

6:21 *Bind them continually on your heart; tie them around your neck.*

6:22 *When you walk about, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk to you.*

6:23 *For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light; and reproofs for discipline are the way of life*

6:24 *To keep you from the evil woman, from the smooth tongue of the adulteress.*

7:1 **My son**, *keep my words and treasure my commandments within you.*

7:2 *Keep my commandments and live, and my teaching as the apple of your eye.*

7:3 *Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart.*

23:26 Give me your heart, my son, and let your eyes delight in my ways.

Honored Parents

*Proverbs 10:1 A wise son makes a father **glad***

*Proverbs 15:20 A wise son makes a father **glad***

Proverbs 23:15-16

*My son, if your heart is wise, my own heart also will be **glad**; and my inmost being will **rejoice** when your lips speak what is right.*

Proverbs 23:24-25

*The father of the righteous will **greatly rejoice**, and he who sires a wise son will be **glad** in him. Let your father and your mother **be glad** and let her **rejoice** who gave birth to you.*

*Proverbs 27:11 Be wise, my son, and **make my heart glad**, that I may reply to him who reproaches me.*

*Proverbs 29:3 A man who loves wisdom makes his father **glad**, But he who keeps company with harlots wastes his wealth.*

Dishonored Parents

19:26 He who assaults his father and drives his mother away is a shameful and disgraceful son.

29:15 ...But a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.

20:20 He who curses his father or his mother, His lamp will go out in time of darkness.

28:24 He who robs his father or his mother and says, "It is not a transgression," Is the companion of a man who destroys.

29:3 ...But he who keeps company with harlots wastes his (father's) wealth.

30:11-14, 17

11 There is a kind of man who curses his father and does not bless his mother.

12 There is a kind who is pure in his own eyes yet is not washed from his filthiness.

13 There is a kind--oh how lofty are his eyes! And his eyelids are raised in arrogance.

14 There is a kind of man whose teeth are like swords and his jaw teeth like knives, to devour the afflicted from the earth and the needy from among men.

17 The eye that mocks a father and scorns a mother, the ravens of the valley will pick it out, and the young eagles will eat it.



Appendix 4: Wisdom

A Wise Son

Proverbs

- 10:1 A **wise son** makes a father glad...
- 10:5 He who gathers in summer is a **son** who **acts wisely**...
- 13:1 A **wise son** accepts his father's discipline...
- 15:20 A **wise son** makes a father glad...
- 23:24 And he who sires a **wise son** will be glad in him.
- 29:3 A man who **loves wisdom** makes his father glad...

A Foolish Son

Proverbs

- 10:1 ...But a **foolish son** is a grief to his mother.
- 15:20 ...But a **foolish man** despises his mother.
- 17:21 He who sires a **fool** does so to his sorrow, and the father of a fool has no joy.
- 17:25 A **foolish son** is a grief to his father and bitterness to her who bore him.
- 19:13 A **foolish son** is destruction to his father...

Acquire Wisdom

Proverbs 4:5a, 6

*Acquire wisdom! Acquire understanding!
Do not forsake her, and she will guard you;
Love her, and she will watch over you.*

Proverbs 4:3-13

*When I was a son to my father, tender and the only son in the sight of my mother, then he taught me and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments and live; Acquire **wisdom**! Acquire **understanding**! Do not forget nor turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not forsake her, and she will guard you; love her, and she will watch over you. The beginning of **wisdom** is: acquire **wisdom**; and with all your acquiring, get **understanding**. Prize her, and she will exalt you; she will honor you if you embrace her. She will place on your head a garland of grace; she will present you with a crown of beauty."*

Hear, my son, and accept my sayings and the years of your life will be many. I have directed you in the way of **wisdom**; I have led you in upright paths. When you walk, your steps will not be impeded; and if you run, you will not stumble. Take hold of **instruction**; do not let go. Guard her, for she is your life.

Proverbs 7:4-5

Say to **wisdom**, "You are my sister," and call **understanding** your intimate friend; that they may keep you from an adulteress, from the foreigner who flatters with her words.

Proverbs 24:13-14

My son, eat honey, for it is good, yes, the honey from the comb is sweet to your taste; know that **wisdom** is thus for your soul; if you find it, then there will be a future, and your hope will not be cut off.

Search for Wisdom as for Hidden Treasures

Proverbs 2:1-5

My son, if you will receive my words and treasure my commandments within you, make your ear attentive to **wisdom**, incline your heart to **understanding**; for if you cry for **discernment**, lift your voice for **understanding**; if you seek her as silver and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will discern the fear of the LORD and discover the **knowledge** of God.

Where Can Wisdom Be Found?

Job 28:12-15, 20, 23-28

But where can **wisdom** be found?

And where is the place of understanding?

Man does not know its value, nor is it found in the land of the living.

The deep says, 'It is not in me'; and the sea says, 'It is not with me.'

Pure gold cannot be given in exchange for it,

Nor can silver be weighed as its price.

Where then does **wisdom** come from?

And where is the place of understanding?

God understands its way, and He knows its place.

For He looks to the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens.

When He imparted weight to the wind; meted out the waters by measure,

When He set a limit for the rain and a course for the thunderbolt,

*Then He saw it and declared it;
He established it and also searched it out.
And to man He said, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is **Wisdom**;
And to depart from evil is understanding.'*

How Blessed Is the One Who Finds It!

Proverbs 3:13-22

*How blessed is the man who finds **wisdom** and the man who gains **understanding**.*

For her profit is better than the profit of silver and her gain better than fine gold.

She is more precious than jewels; and nothing you desire compares with her.

Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor.

Her ways are pleasant ways and all her paths are peace.

She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and happy are all who hold her fast.

*The LORD by **wisdom** founded the earth, by **understanding** He established the heavens.*

*By His **knowledge** the deeps were broken up and the skies drip with dew.*

*My son, let them not vanish from your sight; keep sound **wisdom** and **discretion**,*

So they will be life to your soul and adornment to your neck.

Wisdom Speaks

Proverbs 8:1-36

Does not **wisdom** call, and understanding lift up her voice?

On top of the heights beside the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand; beside the gates, at the opening to the city, at the entrance of the doors, she cries out:

"To you, O men, I call, and my voice is to the sons of men. O naive ones, understand prudence; and, O fools, understand wisdom. Listen, for I will speak noble things; and the opening of my lips will reveal right things. For my mouth will utter truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the utterances of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing crooked or perverted in them. They are all straightforward to him who understands, and right to those who find knowledge. Take my instruction and not silver, and knowledge rather than choicest gold. For wisdom is better than jewels; and all desirable things cannot compare with her.

*I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and I find knowledge and discretion.
The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way
and the perverted mouth, I hate. Counsel is mine and sound wisdom; I am
understanding, power is mine. By me kings reign, and rulers decree justice.
By me princes rule, and nobles, all who judge rightly.*

*I love those who love me; and those who diligently seek me will find me.
Riches and honor are with me, enduring wealth and righteousness. My fruit
is better than gold, even pure gold, and my yield better than choicest silver. I
walk in the way of righteousness,
In the midst of the paths of justice, to endow those who love me with
wealth, that I may fill their treasuries.*

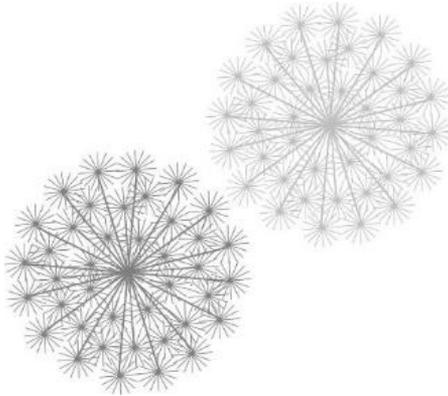
*The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way, before His works of
old. From everlasting I was established, from the beginning, from the
earliest times of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains
were settled, before the hills I was brought forth; while He had not yet made
the earth and the fields, nor the first dust of the world.
When He established the heavens, I was there,
when He inscribed a circle on the face of the deep,
when He made firm the skies above,
when the springs of the deep became fixed,
when He set for the sea its boundary so that the water would not transgress
His command,
When He marked out the foundations of the earth;
Then I was beside Him, as a master workman; and I was daily His delight,
rejoicing always before Him, rejoicing in the world, His earth, and having my
delight in the sons of men.*

*Now therefore, O sons, listen to me, for blessed are they who keep my ways.
Heed instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it. Blessed is the man who
listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at my doorposts. **For he
who finds me finds life and obtains favor from the LORD.** But he who sins
against me injures himself; all those who hate me love death."*

God's Promise for Those Who Seek Wisdom

*James 1:5-8 But if any of you lacks **wisdom**, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

Note: A profitable study for you and your children would be to read through the book of Proverbs and make a list of all the areas of life in which they need to apply WISDOM: work ethic, friends, conversation, strange women (for the young men), relationships, etc.



Appendix 5: Discipline/Correction from the Book of Proverbs

*...bring them up in the **discipline** and instruction of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4*

Note: The word “discipline” in this passage includes both verbal instruction/reproof and physical discipline.

*3:11-12 My son, do not reject the **discipline** of the LORD or loathe His reproof, for whom the LORD loves He reproves, even as a father **corrects** the son in whom he delights.*

*12:1 Whoever loves **discipline** loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.*

*13:1 A wise son accepts his father's **discipline**, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.*

*13:18 Poverty and shame will come to him who neglects **discipline**, but he who regards reproof will be honored.*

*15:5 A fool rejects his father's **discipline**, but he who regards reproof is sensible.*

*15:31-32 He whose ear listens to the life-giving reproof will dwell among the wise. He who neglects **discipline** despises himself, but he who listens to reproof acquires understanding.*

*19:20 Listen to counsel and accept **discipline**, that you may be wise the rest of your days.*

*19:27 Cease listening, my son, to **discipline**, and you will stray from the words of knowledge.*

*23:12 Apply your heart to **discipline** and your ears to words of knowledge.*

6:23-24

*For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light; and **reproofs for discipline** are the way of life to keep you from the evil woman, from the smooth tongue of the adulteress.*



13:24 He who withholds his rod hates his son, but he who loves him **disciplines** him diligently.

19:18 **Discipline** your son while there is hope, and do not desire his death.

22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of **discipline** will remove it far from him.

23:13-14 Do not hold back **discipline** from the child, although you strike him with the rod, he will not die. You shall strike him with the rod and rescue his soul from Sheol.

29:17 **Correct** your son, and he will give you comfort; he will also delight your soul.

Appendix 6: Reproof from the Book of Proverbs

3:11-12 My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD Or loathe His **reproof**, for whom the LORD loves He **reproves**, Even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights.

6:23 For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light; And **reproofs** for discipline are the way of life

10:17 He is on the path of life who heeds instruction, But he who ignores **reproof** goes astray.

12:1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, But he who hates **reproof** is stupid.

13:18 Poverty and shame will come to him who neglects discipline, But he who regards **reproof** will be honored.

*15:5 A fool rejects his father's discipline, But he who regards **reproof** is sensible.*

*15:10 Grievous punishment is for him who forsakes the way; He who hates **reproof** will die.*

*15:31-32 He whose ear listens to the life-giving **reproof** Will dwell among the wise. He who neglects discipline despises himself, But he who listens to **reproof** acquires understanding.*

*29:1 A man who hardens his neck after much **reproof** Will suddenly be broken beyond remedy.*

*29:15 The rod and **reproof** give wisdom, But a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.*

*9:8 Do not **reprove** a scoffer, or he will hate you, **Reprove** a wise man and he will love you.*

*15:12 A scoffer does not love one who **reproves** him, He will not go to the wise.*

*19:25 Strike a scoffer and the naive may become shrewd, But **reprove** one who has understanding and he will gain knowledge.*

*25:12 Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold Is a wise **reprover** to a listening ear.*

*13:1 A wise son accepts his father's discipline, But a scoffer does not listen to **rebuke**.*

*17:10 A **rebuke** goes deeper into one who has understanding Than a hundred blows into a fool.*

*27:5 Better is open **rebuke** Than love that is concealed.*

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