

What Should a Father Teach His Children? – Part 1 (Proverbs)

1. Fear the Lord

a. By starting here

1:7 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge, *But* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

9:10 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One *is* understanding.

b. By humbling yourself

3:7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil.

c. By trusting the Lord

3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

14:26 In the fear of the LORD *there is* strong confidence, And His children will have a place of refuge.

d. By hating sin

8:13 The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.

23:17 Do not let your heart envy sinners, But *be zealous* for the fear of the LORD all the day;

2. Pursue True Wisdom

a. Know wisdom's Source

2:6 For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth *come* knowledge and understanding;

b. Know wisdom's value

3:13-18 Happy *is* the man *who* finds wisdom, And the man *who* gains understanding; For her proceeds *are* better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold. She *is* more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her. Length of days *is* in her right hand, In her left hand riches and honor. Her ways *are* ways of pleasantness, And all her paths *are* peace. She *is* a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy *are all* who retain her.

c. Make wisdom your focus

4:5-7 Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; Love her, and she will keep you. Wisdom *is* the principal thing; *Therefore* get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.

3. Honor Your Parents

a. Listen to them

4:1 Hear, *my* children, the instruction of a father, And give attention to know understanding;

b. Learn from them

5:7 Therefore hear me now, *my* children, And do not depart from the words of my mouth.

4. Choose Good Companions

a. Avoid bad companions

1:10-19

4:14 Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil.

24:21 My son, fear the LORD and the king; Do not associate with those given to change;

28:7 Whoever keeps the law *is* a discerning son, But a companion of gluttons shames his father.

29:3 Whoever loves wisdom makes his father rejoice, But a companion of harlots wastes *his* wealth.

b. Find wise companions

4:18 But the path of the just *is* like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.

13:20 He who walks with wise *men* will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed.

5. Seek Moral Purity

a. By protecting your mind

4:23-25 Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it *spring* the issues of life. Put away from you a deceitful mouth, And put perverse lips far from you. Let your eyes look straight ahead, & your eyelids look right before you.

b. By knowing the pull

5:3 For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, And her mouth *is* smoother than oil;

c. By guarding your steps

4:26-27 Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established. Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil.

5:8 Remove your way far from her, And do not go near the door of her house

d. By understanding the cost

5:4-5 But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death, Her steps lay hold of hell.

5:9-13 Lest you give your honor to others, And your years to the cruel *one*; Lest aliens be filled with your wealth, And your labors *go* to the house of a foreigner; And you mourn at last, When your flesh and your body are consumed, And say: "How I have hated instruction, And my heart despised correction! I have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, Nor inclined my ear to those who instructed me!

6. Practice Thoughtful Discernment

- a. To avoid temptation*
- b. To make good decisions*
- c. To prepare for the future*

7. Apply Yourself Diligently

- a. Use time wisely*
- b. Work hard*

8. Find a Godly Spouse

- a. Become a good spouse*
- b. Look for the right spouse*
- c. Enjoy your spouse*

9. Use Words Wisely

- a. How to talk*
- b. When to talk*
- c. Who to talk to*
- d. What to say*

10. Manage Money Well

a. Put God first by giving to Him first

3:9 Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase;

b. Recognize the value of money

c. Care for what you have

d. Put money in its place (“better is”)

15:16-17 Better *is* a little with the fear of the LORD, Than great treasure with trouble. Better *is* a dinner of herbs where love is, Than a fatted calf with hatred.