

## What Should a Father Teach His Children? – Part 2 (Proverbs)

1. **Fear the Lord** (*starting here; humbling yourself; trusting God; hating sin*)
2. **Pursue True Wisdom** (*know wisdom's source & value; focus on it*)
3. **Honor Your Parents** (*listen to them; learn from them*)
4. **Choose Good Companions** (*avoid bad companions; find good ones*)
5. **Seek Moral Purity** (*protect mind; know sin's pull & cost; guard steps*)
6. **Practice Thoughtful Discernment**

### a. **To avoid temptation**

2:3 Yes, if you cry out for discernment, *And* lift up your voice for understanding,

2:10-17 When wisdom enters your heart, And knowledge is pleasant to your soul, <sup>11</sup> Discretion will preserve you; Understanding will keep you, <sup>12</sup> To deliver you from the way of evil, From the man who speaks perverse things, <sup>13</sup> From those who leave the paths of uprightness To walk in the ways of darkness; <sup>14</sup> Who rejoice in doing evil, *And* delight in the perversity of the wicked; <sup>15</sup> Whose ways *are* crooked, And *who are* devious in their paths; <sup>16</sup> To deliver you from the immoral woman, From the seductress *who* flatters with her words, <sup>17</sup> Who forsakes the companion of her youth, And forgets the covenant of her God.

5:1-4 My son, pay attention to my wisdom; Lend your ear to my understanding, <sup>2</sup> That you may preserve discretion, And your lips may keep knowledge. <sup>3</sup> For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, And her mouth *is* smoother than oil; <sup>4</sup> But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword.

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

### b. **To make good decisions**

3:21-23 My son, let them not depart from your eyes-- Keep sound wisdom and discretion; <sup>22</sup> So they will be life to your soul And grace to your neck. <sup>23</sup> Then you will walk safely in your way, And your foot will not stumble.

15:21 Folly *is* joy to *him who is* destitute of discernment, But a man of understanding walks uprightly.

19:11 The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, And his glory *is* to overlook a transgression.

22:3 A prudent *man* foresees evil and hides himself, But the simple pass on and are punished.

### c. **To prepare for the future**

6:6-8 Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, <sup>7</sup> Which, having no captain, Overseer or ruler, <sup>8</sup> Provides her supplies in the summer, *And* gathers her food in the harvest.

## 7. **Apply Yourself Diligently**

### a. **Use time wisely**

19:15 Laziness casts *one* into a deep sleep, And an idle person will suffer hunger.

24:30-34 I went by the field of the lazy *man*, And by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; <sup>31</sup> And there it was, all overgrown with thorns; Its surface was covered with nettles; Its stone wall was broken down. <sup>32</sup> When I saw *it*, I considered *it* well; I looked on *it and* received instruction: <sup>33</sup> A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest; <sup>34</sup> So shall your poverty come *like* a prowler, And your need like an armed man.

26:14 As a door turns on its hinges, So *does* the lazy *man* on his bed.

### b. **Work hard**

13:4 The soul of a lazy *man* desires, and *has* nothing; But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.

18:9 He who is slothful in his work Is a brother to him who is a great destroyer.

20:4 The lazy *man* will not plow because of winter; He will beg during harvest and *have* nothing.

## 8. **Find a Godly Spouse**