



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LAKE ORION

***EMBRACING WISDOM WITH
YOUR ENTIRE BEING***
Sunday, October 29, 2017

TEXT: Proverbs 4:10-27

I. THE GRANDFATHER'S ADMONITION, vv. 1-9

- A. The Grandfather's Lecture Came down from the Lips of Solomon, the Wisest Man in the Old Testament, vv. 1-3**
- B. The Grandfather's Lecture Dealt with What Is Truly Important in Life: Discernment and Wisdom, vv. 4-9**

II. THE FATHER'S DESIRE FOR THE SON, vv. 10-27

- A. The Father Desires the Son to Live, v. 10**
- B. The Father Desires the Son to Embrace the Specific Path of Life, vv. 11-19, esp. v. 18**
 - 1. The father's warning to avoid the path of the wicked, vv. 14-15, 19
 - 2. The father's reason for avoiding the path of the wicked, vv. 16-17
 - a. Evil governs their actions, v. 16
 - b. Evil is part of their being, v. 17
- C. The Father Desires the Son to be Obedient, vv. 20-27**
 - 1. Know the way of obedience, v. 20

Once again, an appeal is made to the son to embrace wisdom, 1:8; 2:1; 3:1, 20-21; 4:10. This appeal is equivalent to a call to *obedience*. That is, the son is exhorted to devote himself to the practice of the teaching he has received.

- 2. Go the way of obedience, v. 21

After he has embraced the ways of wisdom, the son should not allow them to "depart." This is often done through carelessness or indifference.

3. Grow in the way of obedience, v. 22
 - a. Listen, *My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings*, v. 20
 - b. Guard your heart, *Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life*, v. 23
 - c. Speak truth, *Put away from you a deceitful mouth And put devious speech far from you*, v. 24.
 - d. Keep focused, *Let your eyes look directly ahead And let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you*, v. 25
 - e. Establish your direction, *Watch the path of your feet And all your ways will be established*, v. 26
 - f. Do not get sidetracked, *Do not turn to the right nor to the left; Turn your foot from evil*, v. 27

III. APPLICATION: TEACHING THE FUTURE GENERATION ABOUT WISDOM (John MacArthur, *Successful Christian Parenting*)

A. Teach Them Regeneration

Your top-priority job as a parent. . . is to be an evangelist in your home. You need to teach your children the law of God; teach them the gospel of divine grace; show them their need for a Savior; and point them to Jesus Christ as the only One who can save them. If they grow up without a keen awareness of their need for salvation, you as a parent will have failed in your primary task as their spiritual leader, (John MacArthur, Successful Christian Parenting, pp. 44–45.)

1. Do not take your child’s profession of faith for granted.

How can children exercise true saving faith before they are old enough to understand and affirm essential, objective elements of gospel truth? Saving faith is not blind faith. Real saving faith cannot be ignorant of essential gospel concepts such as good and evil, sin and punishment, repentance and faith, God’s holiness and His wrath against sin, Christ as God incarnate, the idea of atonement for sin and the meaning of the resurrection and lordship of Christ. The specific age at which the child’s understanding is mature enough to grasp such concepts may differ for each child. (So there’s no reliable way to pinpoint a physical “age of accountability.”) But until the child demonstrates some degree of real understanding and some measure of spiritual fruit, parents should not be quick to regard the child’s regeneration as a settled matter, (John MacArthur, Successful Christian Parenting: pp. 51–52.)

2. Do not minimize your child's profession of faith.

Nonetheless, don't write off childlike expressions of faith as meaningless or trivial. Parents should encourage every sign of faith in their children. Don't ridicule or belittle them for the things they fail to understand. Use the opportunity to teach them more. Feed their desire to learn about Christ, and encourage their every profession of faith. Even if you conclude it's too early to regard their interest in Christ as mature faith, don't deride it as merely a false profession. It may be the seed from which mature faith will later emerge. And don't be discouraged by misunderstanding or ignorance. Even the most mature believer does not fully comprehend all truth accurately. Keep teaching them in the spirit of Deuteronomy 6:6–7. MacArthur, p. 52.

B. Teach Them the Whole Counsel of God

1. About the fear and the holiness of God, Pro 1:7; 9:10; 15:33
2. About their sin.

Be sure to teach your children from the youngest age that misbehavior is not merely an offense against Mom and Dad; it's also a sin against a holy God, who demands that children obey their parents (Exodus 20:12). Help educate your children's conscience so that they view their own misbehavior as a sin for which they will eventually answer to God—not merely misconduct against their parents, MacArthur, p. 56.

3. About Christ and what He has done—salvation, redemption, atonement, etc.
4. About what God demands of sinners—repentance, faith, turning from sin, etc.
5. About the cost of following Jesus.

Don't downplay the hard demands of Christ. Don't portray the Christian life as a life of ease, free from difficulties and dilemmas. Keep reminding your kids that the true price of following Christ always involves sacrifice, and the prelude to glory is suffering. It's true that Christ offers the water of life freely to all who will take it (Revelation 22:17). But those who do are making unconditional commitment to follow Him that may literally cost them their very lives, MacArthur, pp. 63–64.

C. Teach Them Wisdom by Example.

It does no good to teach our children sound wisdom and then live a life that contradicts what we are teaching. In fact, there may be no surer way to provoke your children to despise and discard the wisdom of the Lord. The price of parental hypocrisy is unbearably high, MacArthur, p. 73.

D. Teach Them to Guard Their Minds, Pro 4:23; 23:7

1. By cultivating wholesome thoughts, Phi 4:8.

2. By supervising what they mentally digest.

Our children must learn to guard their minds diligently. Never in human history have the forces of evil waged a campaign to capture human minds on the scale we are seeing today. As parents, we are partly responsible for guarding our children's minds. The onslaught against righteous thinking comes from several fronts: television, radio, movies, music, the Internet, and nowadays even from school curriculum. So the parent's task is indeed a formidable one. Parents can, and must, protect children from exposure to the most unsavory aspects of modern entertainment and media. Monitor what they see and hear. Do not simply turn them loose on the Internet. Don't hand them the television remote and leave the room. It is all right to allow them some choice about what they will watch and listen to, but do not let them make those choices totally unsupervised, p. 81–82.

3. By helping them in their selection of friends, Pro 1:10-18; 2:10-15; 13:20

Parents must take the offensive on this. If you do not help your children select, and help them learn to select for themselves, the right kind of companions, the wrong kind of companions will inevitably select them. The responsibility of teaching children how to choose their friends wisely is therefore a fundamental element of successful biblical parenting, MacArthur, p. 89.

4. By fleeing youthful lust, Pro 2:16–19; Pro 9.

E. Teach Them to Obey God-ordained Authorities, Pro 1:8; 4:1-4; 6:20-23.

F. Teach Them to Watch Their Words, Pro 4:24; 10:11, 19, 20, 21, 32; 16:23; 20:15.

G. Teach Them the Value of Work, Pro 6:6–8; 10:4–5.

H. Teach Them the Value of Money, Pro 3:9–10.

1. Generosity, Pro 11:24-26
2. Gracious to the needy, Pro 19:17; 22:9

I. Teach Them to Win Souls, Pro 11:30.