

Proverbs

Raising Children

Introduction

According to Scripture, children are a gift from God, a reward, and a heritage. According to our culture, children are a nuisance, a frustration, and a problem. While we must resist the urge to reorient our lives around our children, we must also honor them, realizing that they are made in God's image and entrusted to us as parents and as a community.

Discussion Questions

- Teaching is the starting point for every area of life. We are encouraged to pay particular attention to the teaching we have been given since our youth [6:20-23]. What teachings do you hold close to your heart? What areas of life do you wish you knew more about?
- Rebuke is intended to communicate love and concern [27:5]. It takes concern for someone to confront their direction in life at the risk of the relationship. What is most difficult about intervening in someone's life? Are you receptive to hearing concerns others have about your life?
- Correction goes beyond confrontation [13:24]. It is not as concerned with pointing out what is wrong as with getting us back to what is right [10:17]. Sometimes, painful circumstances can save us from a lifetime of pain later [19:18]. Have you ever had to learn the hard way? What areas of life are you most set in your ways?
- Training is simply practicing doing something right. Since habits can be formed for good or bad, training in godliness is essential [22:6]. What areas of life do you excel in? What areas do you need practice?

Think About It

Folly is bound up in the heart of a child as Scripture reminds us. Evil comes from the heart, and children left to themselves will not honor God or their parents. Immature folly is different than childlike faith. Our Heavenly Father seeks to drive folly from our hearts while producing in us faith like a child.

What Will You Do?

Look to Scripture to guide and teach you. Receive reproof when it comes and don't spurn the discipline of God. Repent off sin and turn back to doing what you know is right. Train yourself to trust and obey Jesus. Put your hope for change in the good news of the gospel.

Renewing Your Mind

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, 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. [Deuteronomy 6:4-7]

Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! [Psalms 127:3-5]

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. [Proverbs 22:6]

Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him. [Proverbs 22:15]

Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. [Malachi 2:15]

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction. [Malachi 4:5-6]

Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. [Matthew 18:5-6]

Continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. [2Timothy 3:14-15]

Prayer Requests

