

# Proverbs on Children

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Because I did not preach a sermon on *Children in Proverbs* when I did a series on Proverbs some years ago, and because we have witnessed a baptism today, and because we have an increasing number of children, I thought it helpful to examine the wise man's teaching on children. I will do so today under the following headings:

Children must be taught by their parents

Children must be disciplined by their parents

Children must receive their parents' teaching and discipline

Our goals are: That as the redeemed people of God, parents and children must understand and fulfill their responsibilities so the church, family, and nation can work to advance Christ's kingdom.

## Children must be taught by their parents

### 1. Parents are to teach your children the Word of God.

The Word of God taught, understood, and believed will lead your children to eternal life. (This will give joy to your soul.)

Proverbs 1:8 My son, hear the **instruction of your father**, And do not forsake the **law of your mother**; **Solomon had money, power, and food in abundance, but he said that instruction is what will save your son.** He does not say that giving him everything you didn't have as a child is what will make your son good – like education, more food, more clothes, a newer cell phone, more toys...

**No, you are to teach the child about Jesus, sin, and faith, so he will learn how to be saved.** Isn't this the thing that will bring the greatest delight to the soul of any parent? Isn't this the longing of mothers...to see your children walk in the way of the Lord...far more that to see them become doctors or pilots?

**Part of your instruction is to teach children to pray. You are monstrous 怪异 if you don't teach your children to pray!**

Jesus certainly taught his children to pray.

### 2. Parents are to encourage your children in right living.

Don't only pound them with instruction! See the warmth of these verses from King Solomon.

Proverbs 23:19 **Hear, my son, and be wise**; And guide your heart in the way.

Proverbs 24:13 **My son, eat honey because it is good**, And the honeycomb which is sweet to your taste; 14 **So shall the knowledge of wisdom be to your soul...**

### 3. Parents who ignore these duties are sentencing your children to failure in life and ultimately to spiritual death.

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he would go, And when he is old **he will not depart from it.**

You must be concerned that our generation is **raising a bunch of cry babies who are in the habit of getting everything they want.** (You probably heard of university students crying in the US and had to have their exams cancelled by universities because Hillary Clinton lost the elections.) Selfishness – I must get what I want- leads to spiritual death! **But do what God says is best for your children. Yes, stubborn children will reflect their inherited 遗传 sinful nature, but godly instruction will expose their sin and lead them to the Savior.**

### 4. Parents who ignore the proper instruction of their children will bring shame to themselves.

Proverbs 29:15 - The rod and **rebuke give wisdom, But a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.**

The only thing your children will give you for abdicating your responsibility for teaching them is shame.

## Children must be disciplined by their parents

### 1. Parents are to discipline their children, just as God disciplines the child he loves.

**Discipline is not a suggestion. It is a command.** But one of the frustrating things I've heard parents say is: "My children are my friends." I know there is a sense of friendliness that exists between children and parents, but your children are not your friends. You don't discipline your friends. Look at the command.

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

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

### 2. Parents must start to discipline children when they are young.

**This is when there is hope.** The tree is always more flexible when it is young. This is why Jesus took those children on his lap, taught them, and refused to send them away!

Proverbs 19:18 – **Chasten your son while there is hope** 趁有指望、管教你的兒子, And do not set your heart on his destruction.

“Chasten” also means to chastise, instruct, correct, teach, bind, and reform, so it’s not bound to physical discipline.

Proverbs 29:17 – Correct your son, and he will give you rest; Yes, **he will give delight to your soul.**

### **3. Parents who discipline their children clean their souls of foul thought, words, and actions, and restore them to truth – to the right path.**

Proverbs 20:30 – Blows that hurt cleanse away evil, As do stripes the inner depths of the heart.

“**Blows that hurt**” is: **The blueness of a wound.** Blows cleanse away evil. Discipline is therapeutic 治疗 – it is curative.

But here is one important note: **Since discipline is to bring children back into the way of God, if you personally are not in the way of God, you cannot lead your children there.** So fix that problem if you have it, knowing that God’s judgment is very severe on those who cause children to be led in the wrong path.

### **4. Parents will not abuse 濫用 their children; this is God’s assumption.**

Proverbs 23:13-14 – Do not withhold correction from a child, **For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die.** 14 You shall beat him with a rod, And deliver his soul from hell.

You must not be furious when you discipline your children, but be under control. Discipline was not put into your hand **to satisfy your anger.**

### **5. Parents who don’t discipline their children evidence hate for them!**

Really? Yes. God doesn’t lie. Love is not merely a feeling. Love is obedience to God’s law.

Proverbs 13:24 – He who **s pares his rod hates his son**...

**Parents must not be intimidated 威吓 into not disciplining your children.**

**Discipline is not primitive 与生俱来. Reject those who try to tell you otherwise.**

**Discipline is a prerequisite for raising healthy children.** The government of Canada doesn’t have the right to tell you not to discipline your children. God does. Further, you love your children more than Premier Wynne and Prime Minister Trudeau does...and every judge in this land. **Because of this, you will be caring and loving, not abusive in discipline.**

### **6. Parents who carefully discipline their children evidence love for them!**

Proverbs 13:24 – ... **But he who loves his son disciplines him promptly.**

## **Children must received their parents’ teaching and discipline**

### **1. Children must listen to their parents by virtue of their parents’ position over them.**

**This is not based on whether your parents are nice to you or not...or whether they are educated or not.**

Proverbs 23:22 Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old.

### **2. Children must listen to their parents because of their good instruction.**

**Parents speak words of life – spiritual and physical.** (What good would it do if parents teach but children don’t listen?)

In the home you will first **hear the message of salvation through Jesus Christ.**

In the home is where you will **first learn to pray – starting with the Lord’s Prayer.**

Proverbs 6:20 My son, **keep your father’s command,** And do not forsake the law of your mother. 21

Bind them continually upon your heart; Tie them around your neck. 22 **When you roam 你行走, they will lead you;** When you sleep, they will keep you; And when you awake, they will speak with you. 23 For the commandment is a lamp, And the law a light; Reproofs of instruction are the way of life 訓誨的責備是生命的道,

Obedience is life.

Proverbs 4:10 Hear, my son, and receive my sayings, **And the years of your life will be many.** 11 **I**

**have taught you in the way of wisdom;** I have led you in right paths. 12 When you walk, **your steps will not be hindered,** And when you run, you will not stumble. 13 Take firm **hold of instruction, do not let go; Keep her, for she is your life.**

### **3. Children who listen and take their parents’ discipline are wise.**

Proverbs 13:1 – **A wise son heeds his father’s instruction,** But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke 褻慢人不聽責備.

For the past 50 years we have been living in a “self” generation. You have heard new words: self-help, self-esteem, self-promotion, self-will, self-centered, self-made, self-respect, and self-awareness. The Bible speaks of sin, salvation, and service. The Christian child will be wise and bring joy to his parents.

Proverbs 23:15 My son, if your heart is wise, **My heart will rejoice — indeed, I myself;**

#### **4. Children who don't listen to their parents are foolish.**

**The son who is foolish acts as if he were God...**and wants to make up his own laws.

Proverbs 15:5 – **A fool despises his father's instruction,** But he who receives correction is prudent.

**But the one who hates his parents' discipline is stupid.**

Proverbs 12:1 Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, **But he who hates correction is stupid.**

Now “stupid” is not properly understood today. It does not mean “dumb.” **“Stupid” is a spiritual designation.** It means to act like a wild brutish 野蛮 beast. It is pronounced similar to our word for “bear” – a brutish beast. (Literally, bah-ar.) At least that's my way of remembering it. These bears bring shame on their parents.

Proverbs 27:11 My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, **That I may answer him who reproaches me.**

The one who hates discipline will likely become poor.

Proverbs 13:18 – **Poverty and shame will come to him who disdains correction,** But he who regards a rebuke will be honored.

#### **5. Children who are foolish will then stray from the faith because they ignore or forget the work of Jesus**

**Christ on the cross.** While we touched on this before, there are many more verses that speak to this matter, and when God repeats something, it is for good reason.

Proverbs 19:27 - Cease listening to instruction, my son, **And you will stray from the words of knowledge.**

**When you stray from words of knowledge you walk in ways of ignorance,** ways that lead to death.

#### **6. Children are bound to care for their parents.**

Proverbs 19:26 He who mistreats his father and chases away his mother is **a son who causes shame and brings reproach.**

Proverbs 30:17 The eye that mocks his father, And scorns 藐視 obedience to his mother, **The ravens 鴉 of the valley will pick it out,** And the young eagles will eat it.

#### **Conclusion:**

Children must be taught by their parents all necessary spiritual things, including how to pray, so they can be saved and sanctified. Children must be disciplined by their parents to make sure they are brought back to the way of truth when they stray. Children must willingly receive the instruction and discipline of their parents in order to honor Christ and in order to receive their true reward.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Treat your children as holy, separated from the world. They belong to Jesus. So...

**1. Teach your children about sin, salvation, and service.** Teach them to pray. Show them! Do your children hear God's Word from you? Do they hear you pray?

**2. Discipline them in the ways God requires.** Discipline them so when they stray they will quickly come back in the way of truth. Work together as parents to see that this is done. Save your children from destruction.

**3. Children, remember your Creator now, while you are young.** It brings glory to God and brings rewards to you.

Finally: You can only be a good parent if you have God as your Father. If God is not your father, he can become your father if you plead Christ's shed blood on the cross as yours. This is the only way to have your sins removed and be a good parent. If you are a child, you can only be a good child if God is your father first. If God is not your father, he can become your father if you plead Christ's shed blood on the cross as yours.