

FAMILY WISDOM

By Dr. Gary M. Gulan, ©1986 (Rev. 96)

Lesson #8
Proverbs 1:8-9

Introduction: The family has been under attack since the first family fell into sin in Genesis 3. Over time the world system has developed philosophies that are hostile to the family. As a result families need wisdom in daily living. Fathers and mothers need guidance in parenting. Children need wisdom in developing into mature adults. Solomon, the writer of Proverbs, had these goals in mind.

1. THE REGARD OF A FATHER FOR WISDOM (To whom did Solomon write Proverbs?)
Solomon's concern for the family moved him to write to two groups.

A. To whom did Solomon direct the following verses in Proverbs: 1:8,10,15; 2:1; 3:1,11,21; 4:10,20; 5:1; 6:1,3,20; 7:1; 19:27; 23:15,19,26; 24:13,21; 27:11?

My "son." Who was this son? It could have been Rehoboam (925BC-918BC). Born of an Ammonite princess, (1 Kings 14:21,31).

B. To whom did Solomon direct the following verses in Proverbs: 4:1, 7:24; 8:32?
To "children" (KJV) or "sons" (NIV). Who were these children or sons? Three views; (1.) Students of the sage, (2.) Children of the royal court, or (3.) Actual children of Solomon. They could have been his own children with 700 wives and 300 concubines. These were temple or palace children.

Are the Proverbs limited to male children, "sons?" (see 1:4-5)
(Four groups and four age levels)

"Originally these verses. . . were addressed orally either to students of Solomon and to students of others in the royal court, or by Solomon and others to their sons in their homes. Favoring the home environment is the fact that instruction was given by mothers as well as fathers."
(Proverbs by Sid S. Buzzell, in The Bible Knowledge Commentary, page 902)

2. THE ROLE OF PARENTS IN WISDOM (Who is responsible for wisdom in the family?)
Both parents have a role in the dispensing of wisdom in a family.

A. What is a father's role concerning dispensing wisdom? (verse 8, 4:4; 6:20)
He is to instruct.

How does this relate to Ephesians 6:4?
To bring up in the (1.) "nurture" (Greek "ektrephe") meaning to "promote health" and (2.) The "admonition" (Greek "nouthesia") meaning "exhort" of the Lord.

B. What is a mother's role concerning dispensing wisdom? (verse 8; 6:20; 31:1)
She is to teach.

How does this relate to 1 Timothy 5:14?
To "bear" children (Greek "teknogonein") meaning "rearing a family not just having children."
To "guide" the home (Greek "oikodespotein") meaning "manage a household."

"Teaching renders the Hebrew 'torah' usually translated 'law.' When used, as here, with a specific person (e.g. mother) it is translated 'teaching.' Since parents in ideal Jewish

homes taught their children God's Law (cf. Deut. 6:4-7), the same word (torah) was used both for the Law and for instruction in it."

(Proverbs by Sid S. Buzzell, in The Bible Knowledge Commentary, page 908)

The primary responsibility for moral instruction is vested in the parents!

Can a child grow up and possess wisdom when his or her family has only one wise parent?

Can a child grow up and possess wisdom when his or her family has no wise parents?

3. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CHILDREN TO WISDOM (What is required for wisdom?)

There are at least seven activities or responsibilities of children in relationship to wisdom.

A. Proverbs 1:8; 4:10; 23:19 = to hear or listen

B. Proverb 2:1; 4:10 = to receive or accept

C. Proverbs 3:1 = to not forget

D. Proverbs 4:20; 5:1 = to attend or pay attention to

E. Proverbs 7:1 = to keep

F. Proverbs 7:1 = to lay up or to store up (treasure up)

G. Proverbs 23:19 = to guide or keep the heart

How do these activities or responsibilities relate to Ephesians 6:1-2 and Colossians 3:20?
Obey and honor

If children do not choose to follow wisdom, are the parents held accountable?

4. THE REWARDS FOR CHILDREN FOLLOWING WISDOM (Why be wise?)

There are at least three rewards given to children who exercise wisdom.

A. Proverbs 1:9; 3:22; 4:9 = an ornament of grace on the head

B. Proverbs 1:9 = chains about the neck

"If children heeded their parents' teachings, they were promised a garland (some kind of head ornament; cf. 4:9) and a neck chain (cf. 3:3,22). That is, heeding parental instruction would give them attractiveness of life and position. They would be honored. The implied contrast is that disobedience and rebellion lead to dishonor."

(Proverbs by Sid S. Buzzell, in The Bible Knowledge Commentary, page 908)

C. Proverbs 4:10 = added years

How does this relate to Ephesians 6:3 (cf. Exodus 20:12)?

Be well and live long.

Conclusion: Generations to come profit from parents who teach their children wisdom and children who follow wisdom.