

Food for Thought

Answer the following questions with a Yes or No.

1. My spouse and I want our children to grow up to be responsible citizens.
2. My spouse and I want our children to acquire a personal faith in and commitment to Christ.
3. My spouse and I want to be the most significant influence in our children's lives.
4. My spouse and I want our children to choose us as their friends once they leave home.
5. My spouse and I understand what God expects of us as parents and are working to follow his will.

I. Material Provision

- 13:22 ²² A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.
- 19:14 ¹⁴ House and riches are the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife is from the LORD.
- 31:10, 15, 21, 27 ¹⁰ Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. . . . ¹⁵ She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens. . . . ²¹ She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet. . . . ²⁷ She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

II. Moral & Spiritual Instruction

- 1:8 8 My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:
- 4:1-4 1 Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. 2 For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law. 3 For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother. 4 He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.
- 20:7 7 The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.
- 22:6 6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.
- 23:26 26 My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.

It is significant to note that the six major topics of parental instruction found in Proverbs are remarkably up-to-date. They are positive spiritual influences (e.g., 1:10, 15); the knowledge of God (e.g., 2:1-5); sexual purity (e.g., 7:24-25); financial integrity (e.g., 6:1-3); abstinence from alcohol (e.g., 23:19-21); and respect for authority (e.g., 24:21).

III. Moral Correction

- 3:11-12 11 My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: 12 For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son

in whom he delighteth.

- 19:18 ¹⁸ Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.
- 22:15 ¹⁵ Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.
- 23:13-14 ¹³ Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. ¹⁴ Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.
- 29:15, 17 ¹⁵ The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame. . . . ¹⁷ Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.

Parting Thoughts

- 10:1 ¹ The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.
- 17:21, 25 ²¹ He that begetteth a fool doeth it to his sorrow: and the father of a fool hath no joy. . . . ²⁵ A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him.
- 23:15 ¹⁵ My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine.
- 23:24-25 ²⁴ The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him. ²⁵ Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice.