Proverbs on Parenting

Solomon wrote, "Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers" (Proverbs 17:6). Most young people look forward to a day when they have a child of their own. Thoughts of children in the home are exciting and joyous. David wrote, "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is his reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them" (Psalms 127:4-5 / NKJVB). The happiness of having a child is difficult to put in words. The excitement of watching the child grow and develop various abilities is fascinating. Christians must always remember; however, that there are great responsibilities that come with having children.

Some parents do very well at raising their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Other parents do not do so well. Parents that fail in this regard often do so because they are selfish with their time. Time spent in hobbies and other events prior to marriage and children now must be shared. Rearing children takes time in addition to love, patience, care, and correction. That means much of the time that was spent on self is now directed at another.

Some parents have a difficult time coping with such selflessness. The temptation to go back to the fun of single carefree dating days unfortunately grips the minds of the spiritually unsettled. Some go as far as ending their marriage to pursue the dreams of a twenty year old. It is high time that parents open their eyes and acknowledge that you are not 20 years old and neither do you share the responsibilities that a 20 year old single person does. You were blessed with that time and now you are blessed with another time. This article shall examine the parent and child's responsibilities toward each other in the home as revealed in the book of Proverbs. We shall conclude the discussion with the consequences that come with obedience and rebellion.

Proverbs on Parental Responsibility in the Home

Solomon writes, "Train up a child in the way he should go and even when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6 / ASVB
hereafter). The command to "train up a child" spells responsibility. The responsibility of raising children falls squarely upon the shoulders of parents. Time and a great deal of energy will be used for many years to train a child. There is a great principle delivered in 2 Corinthians 9:6 that applies here. The apostle Paul wrote, "He that sows sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he that sows bountifully shall reap also bountifully." The lazy or disinterested farmer who does not work very hard at planting time will not see much at the time of harvest. The energetic, enthusiastic, and hard working farmer that plants much will, at time of harvest, reap much. Who do you suppose will have greater success, the athlete who trains hard or the apathetic athlete who does not "train" a child will not see good results. The energetic, enthusiastic, and hard working parent who "trains" their child in the ways of wisdom will see results.

Love in the Home

The book of Proverbs reveals three areas of responsibility that parents are to meet. First there is love. Secondly, the parent is to teach children in the ways of the Lord. Lastly, parents are to discipline or correct their children. Solomon gives advise to parents in the area of love by looking to his own childhood and how he was treated with a since of loving tenderness (see Proverbs 4:1-3). Imagine a home where tenderness and affectionate love does not exist? Unfortunately, many homes are filled with bitterness, anger, harsh, and cruel treatment of each other. Children in this environment have greater potential to grow up as attention starved bullies. God intends for the home to be a loving and caring atmosphere (see Proverbs 15:17).

Teach your Children

Secondly, the parent is responsible for teaching their children. Solomon delivers seven critical things that a parent ought to teach their children at Proverbs 23:15-25). First, a parent ought to teach their children not to envy sinners (Proverbs 23:17). While it may seem like the world of sinners are having fun their unlawful activities are leading them toward a horrid eternal existence in hell (see 1 Corinthians 15:31-33).

Secondly, teach your children to fear God (Proverbs 23:17b). Solomon identifies the fear of Jehovah as departing from evil (Proverbs 3:7), hating evil, pride, arrogance, a perverse mouth, and evil ways (Proverbs 8:13).

Continued next week... jcr
Sin

Introduction:
Man is introduced to the identity and consequences of sin immediately in the scriptures (see Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1ff). The time and events of our own lives bring experiences that leave us feeling guilty and ashamed due to our sin. Each year that passes by brings more failures and disappointments in self. God's ledger of man's sin gains size and volume through time. The humiliation of our lives are soothed only by the precious blood of Christ and the promises of God (Matthew 1:21; Romans 7:24-25). This lesson shall identify sin, help us understand sin's consequences, and help us regain that which we have lost.

I. The Identity of Sin:
   A. "A failure, fault" (LS 41)
   B. "To be in error, guilty of wrong, miss a mark" (Moulton 17).
   C. "Lawlessness" (Romans 4:15; 1 John 3:4), "unrighteousness" (1 John 5:17), doing that which God commands man not to do (Leviticus 5:17; 22:9).

II. Why do all men sin?
   A. All sin (Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:10).
   B. Satan's role (1 Peter 5:8-9).
   C. Why do people sin (Romans 7:20)?

III. What are the Consequences of Sin?
   B. This separation may be eternal (see Revelation 20:10, 15).

IV. How can one be forgiven of sin?
   B. Saints may regain their fellowship with God through:
      1. Identity and confession of wrong doing (Leviticus 5:5; 26:40; Jeremiah 3:13; Hosea 5:15; James 5:16; 1 John 1:9).

Conclusion:
Sin produces a great deal of guilt and shame in man's life because we violate the sovereign will of God (Romans 6:20-21). We often do the very things that we hate (Deuteronomy 7:26; Romans 12:9) and are disgusted with (Leviticus 11:13). Such an event brings us low in that we disappoint not only our selves but God (Luke 8:15; 1 Peter 2:2). Our only reasonable and logical response to sin and God's forgiveness is to pick ourselves up and continue forward with God's promise of eternal salvation ever in view.