

1-22-23 Wisdom

Proverbs 4:1-7, Proverbs 5.

What is wisdom? How do we obtain it?

James 1:5, If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

James 3:17, But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

Proverbs 1:7, The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 8:11-12, For wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her. "I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and I find knowledge and discretion.

Colossians 2:8, See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

Last week we learned that our words have the power to lacerate a life or to give grace to people. What comes out of mouth either assassinates or encourages. This morning will be on discovering some practical wisdom for the family.

Read Proverbs 4:1-7.

I recognize that this message may be difficult for some of you. Perhaps you've been deeply hurt by a spouse. Some of you are divorced or widowed, and others of you have never been married. Maybe your kids have gone astray, and in some cases, your parents did some pretty bad things to you. I understand and hurt with you. My intent this morning is not to pile you or make you feel guilty. I simply want to share what God's Word teaches so that those who are currently married will treasure their spouses more, that parents will take it up a notch, and that kids will develop greater respect and honor for those God has put in authority over them.

Wisdom for Husbands

1. Delight in your wife.

- One of the best ways to honor your bride is to find joy in your relationship with her.

Proverbs 5:18, Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of your youth.

Proverbs 18:22, He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the Lord.

- Husbands, when was the last time you thanked God for your wife? Having a wife is not meant to be a drag but should instead bring you great joy.

2. Treasure your bride.

- Guys, does your wife know that she is more important than anything else in your life, after God? That's a challenge during the playoffs, isn't it?

Proverbs 31:10, An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. ERV

- Don't take your gift for granted. Value her by spending time with her. By the way, one of the most important things you can do for your children is to love their mother.
 - Let them see you love her, embarrassingly. Be an example of what your daughters should look for in a husband and how your sons should treat their wives.
- 3. Pursue to love her.**
- Pursue the type of love God gives to mankind, "agape" unconditional, action, loves first, without regret and unmerited.

Ephesians 5:25, Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

Ephesians 5:28, So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.

- Before you decide to ignore her, neglect her, give up on her, berate her, be hateful to her, ponder and ask yourself, would Christ do this to the Church? Is the way you treat or respond to your wife... the same way Christ does His church?
- Now, that doesn't mean ignore or cover up her blatant sinfulness, because Christ doesn't do that within His church.
- Pursue to love her as Christ pursues and loves His church. (Be forgiving, protect the relationship)

Wisdom for Wives

1. Respect and follow your husband.

- Respect and follow him, assuming he is living for the Lord.

Proverbs 31:11, The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain.

Proverbs 31:12, She does him good and not evil All the days of her life.

Proverbs 31:28, Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her:

- Wives, your relationship with your husband is the second most important relationship, only after God. Follow him, respect as he lays down his life for you and your family. Don't talk bad about him or dismiss him. Build him up and see how he grows.

2. Cultivate YOUR character.

Proverbs 12:4, An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, But she who causes shame is like rotteness in his bones.

Proverbs 21:9, It is better to live in a small corner on the roof than to share the house with a woman who is always arguing. ERV

Proverbs 27:15, A continual dripping on a rainy day and a quarrelsome wife are alike;

- Wives, work on your walk, your character, your spiritual temperature. Too many of wives have tried to change their husbands. With God's leading you can cultivate you. Focus on you.

3. Bring good to your husband.

- The third way to reinforce your husband's significance is by following the example found in **Proverbs 31**. We don't have time to study this chapter in-depth, but **verse 12** provides a good summary of a godly wife's desire: **"She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life."** Do you think the best of your man by encouraging and building him up?
- You may say, how can I, do you know what kind of knucklehead he is? No, no I don't, but God does, and He knows how you are.
- Maybe your husband has bought you a lot of pain, distrust, and you feel like you can't forgive him. Have you sought help? When you got help, did you hit reset or did you just wait for him to screw up again?

Wisdom for Parents

1. Reverence God.

- Fearing God is not only the way to wisdom, but also the prerequisite for parenting.

Proverbs 14:26, In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, And His children will have a place of refuge.

- When God is our number one priority, we will be blessed, and our kids will find our parenting to be a place of safety. That makes sense, doesn't it? When I'm walking with God, then I'm able to spiritually shepherd my children. They'll then sense that home is a safe place where they can always find refuge from the battles of life.
- I am afraid we are seeing an erosion in fear and reverence of God in His Church and by His people. Instead of God being preeminent in Christian homes, He is treated more like a genie in a bottle. Comfort, complacency and being served has replaced sacrifice, striving to be obedient and being a servant of other.
- We must be careful that family, lifestyle, and children do not take preeminence in our Christian homes. That is God's place, and He is a jealous God.

2. Provide instruction.

- One of the most significant parenting jobs is to teach and train our kids.

Proverbs 1:8, Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching,

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

- Teach them God's ways before the world teaches them theirs.

Deut. 6:4-9, “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. 6 “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

3. Deliver discipline.

- Chuck Swindoll refers to children as having the “bents.” What he means is that our kids are really children of Adam and Eve, and as such have a bent toward self-will and sin, just like we do. God has positioned parents strategically to provide discipline and correction for children.

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

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

Proverbs 6:23, Your parents give you commands and teachings that are like lights to show you the right way. This teaching corrects you and trains you to follow the path to life. ERV

- We don’t discipline for our sake, but for the wellbeing of our children. If we want them to live life to its fullest, then we must do our job of correcting them when they need it.
- Someone has said, “The parent who is afraid to put his foot down will have children who step on their toes.”
- When we instruct and discipline our children, it’s important that we provide a good example for them. That’s why revering God is so critical.

Wisdom for Children

1. Grow in wisdom.

- Much of the Book of Proverbs is arranged as words of wisdom from a father to his growing son. **Proverbs 2** challenges children to accept wisdom and apply understanding. Children are not only to strive to get good grades in the classroom, but to do well in the school of wisdom.

2. Choose friends wisely.

Proverbs 28:7, A smart son obeys the laws, but a son who spends time with worthless people brings shame to his father.

Proverbs 12:26, The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray.

- Choose wisely when it comes to friends. You will be judged by the company you keep.

3. Listen to instruction.

- Obey your parents.

Proverbs 13:20, Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

Ephesians 6:1, Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

4. Respect your parents.

- Some of you may feel like your parents are out to lunch, and sometimes we are, but it's important to respect them.
- The command to honor parents comes with a promise. That promise, according to **Ephesians 6:3** is that life will go well for you and that you may live long.
- That sure beats the alternative that is graphically presented in **Proverbs 30:17: "The eye that mocks a father, that scorns obedience to a mother, will be pecked out by the ravens of the valley, and will be eaten by the vultures."**

Conclusion

Husbands, delight, treasure and pursue after your wife. Love them as Jesus loved the church. Doesn't scripture teach us that God delights, treasure, pursues and loves us? Before salvation we were broken, diseased with sin, inept, unable to help ourselves. We were in debt, hopeless and dead men and women walking. We didn't even realize how lost we were.

Romans 5:8, BUT GOD demonstrates (showed) His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

But God, had He not reached down, had He not healed our brokenness, had He not given us hope, had He not forgiven sins through Jesus' sacrifice, we would still be utterly and desperately lost.

Wives, respect, follow, cultivate your character, and bring good to your husband. Does he deserve it? Probably not, but God desires that you put your husband towards the top of your priorities list, right under God. Cultivate your character, your faithfulness to God by trusting in His plan for your life. You will find elevating your husband will cultivate your character. How you respect your husband and follow his leadership (under God) will directly impact how you follow God.

Parents, we have a God given responsibility to raise up His children in His ways, not our ways, not the world's ways, His ways. Being a parent is one of the most humbling things. Let your children catch you loving God, loving, and serving others, worshipping, praying, sacrificially giving of your treasures and time to His church. Be an example of how important God's local church body is and be actively involved in serving in it and not just sitting in it.

Children, obey, honor, and listen to your parents. God has commanded it. It is His desire; He chose them to guide you through life. One day they won't be here, and you will need to carry out what they showed you. One day you will be responsible for your spiritual journey. Get involved in the church, train to take it over and forward for God.

God is so good to us. I pray that we never get tired of hearing, and or looking for opportunities to share the gospel. I pray that we don't grow callous, and cynical regarding our interactions with our community. I pray we will look for people that looked just like us, broken, inept, diseased by sin, utterly desperate and hopeless (that aren't even aware of their lostness) and that we roll up our sleeves and work to introduce them to Jesus.

Proverbs 11:30: "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise."

Romans, 3:10, As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one;

Romans, 3:23, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 5:8, BUT GOD demonstrates (showed) His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 10:9-10, that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:13, For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."