



The Wisdom of Proverbs

Sunday, March 22, 2026

Wisdom For The Family

Proverbs 4:1-7, *"¹Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. ²For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law. ³For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother. ⁴He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live. ⁵Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. ⁶Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee. ⁷Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding."*

British anthropologist John Unwin conducted an in-depth study of 80 civilizations that have come and gone over the last 4,000 years and has discovered that a common thread ran through all of them. In each instance, they started with strong moral values and a heavy emphasis on the family. But over a period of time, these values declined and the family began to fracture. As the home hemorrhaged, all 80 nations imploded and eventually collapsed.

1. Wisdom For Husbands.

Rejoice in your wife. Proverbs 5:18, *"May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth."* How often have you heard the phrase "We'll just live on love?" It is usually young, newly-wed couples who make such declarations. But all too often the honeymoon ends, the relationship becomes drudgery and the spark is extinguished. Here, the writer is saying to rejoice in the woman you married as a young man. If a man is going to be the husband that he needs to be then he must work at keeping the fire burning. It is his responsibility to keep the joy in his relationship with his wife. When was the last time you truly thanked God for your wife? Having a wife was never intended to be a burden or a drag, but instead should bring you great joy.

Proverbs 18:22, *"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD."* In other words, divine delight is poured out on a husband who recognizes God's goodness in the gift of a wife. Gentlemen don't ever forget that the woman you married was given to you by God.

Value your wife. Guys, is your wife more important than anything else in your life? Does she know it? That can be a challenge when hunting and fishing season comes around, can't it? Don't take your wife for granted. Proverbs 31:10, *"Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies."* Value her by spending time with her. One of the big causes for failing marriages is a breakdown in communication. It doesn't take a genius to realize that if you are not spending time



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together then you are not communicating. What she needs is not a new dress, a dozen roses, or some trinket. What she really wants is your undivided attention.

Learn her love language. How many of you can say that you know your wife's "love language?" How many of you even knew she had a "love language?" Well, for that matter how many of you even know what "love languages" are? That is a whole different study but every married person needs to read the book "**The Five Love Languages**" by Gary Chapman. In the book he says that basically all people communicate and receive love through one of 5 "love languages." Briefly, they are: Physical Touch, Words of Affirmation, Quality Time, Gifts, and Acts of Service. By the way, one of the most important things you can do for your children is to love their mother.

Pursue purity and faithfulness. The Book of Proverbs provides some pretty graphic warnings against adultery. Proverbs 5:22, "*His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.*" Every marriage has its good days and its bad days. The challenge is to not allow the bad days to cause you to stray. If you're starting to stray from your marriage, don't be fooled by the allure of someone else. One of the best ways to maintain your faithfulness is to be captivated by your wife's beauty as you rejoice in her and value her for who God has made her to be. Proverbs 5:15-20, "*¹⁵Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well. ¹⁶Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets. ¹⁷Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee. ¹⁸Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. ¹⁹Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love. ²⁰And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger?"*

Make her feel secure. Your wife needs to feel secure in her marriage relationship. A wise husband builds his mate's self-esteem, realizing that the subtle words and actions of a sinful world constantly assault her sense of self-worth. When you rejoice in her, value her more than anything else, and remain faithful by practicing purity, you will give her the gift of security.

2. Wisdom For Wives.

Focus on faithfulness. Wives, as well as husbands, are to work at maintaining faithfulness. Proverbs 2:17-18 describe the unfaithful woman, "*¹⁷Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God. ¹⁸For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead.*" God's plan is for monogamous marriages that last a lifetime.

Cultivate your character. Proverbs 12:4, "*A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.*" One of the best things you can do for your marriage is to cultivate your character by giving attention to your spiritual development. You certainly don't want to drive your husband away by constant quarreling, or even nagging. Proverbs 21:9, "*It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.*"



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As you focus on your relationship with God, you will become the woman God wants you to be, and you will become a joy to your husband.

Bring good to your husband. Proverbs 31:10-31 gives excellent instruction on how to reinforce your husband's significance:

- She brings him good and not evil;
- She is industrious;
- She takes care of the home;
- She is conscientious financially;
- She takes care of her health;
- She is compassionate;
- She is dignified;
- She guards her tongue;
- She isn't lazy.

Learn his love language. Men need to be loved as much as women do. They also want to feel as if you understand them. If you expect him to know and speak your language, then learn his language.

Encourage him. Do you think the best of your husband by encouraging and building him up? Or, are you more like the woman in Proverbs 27:15 where it says, *"A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike."* Men need to know that they have worth in your eyes. They find a major part of their value in your acceptance of who they are and what they do. Learn to appreciate his uniqueness. Encouragement and affirmation to him is just as important as security is to you.

3. Wisdom for Grandparents.

The impact of grandparents in history is beyond calculation. Hezekiah was one of the best kings God's people ever had, but his father was Ahaz, who was very wicked. Fortunately, he had a grandpa named Jotham who walked with the Lord. Hezekiah took after his grandfather rather than his father, with wonderful results both personally and for the kingdom he ruled. Proverbs 17:6, *"Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers."* Your children may have kept you poor, but their children will make you rich. You have a wonderful opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the next generation. Live your life now in order to leave a legacy of love and faithfulness that will continue on.

Grandparents can make a very powerful impact. In fact, even if one generation goes astray, the next generation can be brought back through the influence of a grandparent. Some of you are bridging the gap between parents and children and God is using you mightily. You may have an opportunity for a short period of time while they're young, or God may give you a window of ministry during their teenage years. You are "grand" in their eyes! Keep it up!



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A study shows that the bond between grandparents and grandchildren is second in emotional power and influence only to the relationship between parents and children. Unfortunately, of the children studied, only 5% reported close, regular contact with at least one grandparent. The majority see their grandparents only infrequently, not because they live far away, but because the grandparents chose to remain emotionally distant. The kids of your kids are not only heirs to your possessions, but they will inherit your values, your character, and in many cases, even your faith, so spend time with them.

4. Wisdom For Parents.

Revere God. Fearing God is not only the way to wisdom, it's the prerequisite for parenting. Proverbs 14:26, *"In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall 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 you are walking with God, then you are able to spiritually shepherd your children. They'll sense that home is a safe place where they can always find refuge from the battles of life. Mothers who revere God are praised by both their husbands and their kids as it says in Proverbs 31:28, *"Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her."* Abraham Lincoln once said, "No one is poor who has had a godly mother." The wise woman recognizes that her outward beauty will pass away. Proverbs 31:30, *"Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised."*

Provide instruction. One of the most significant parenting jobs is to teach and train our kids. Perhaps the best-known proverb on parenting is found in Proverbs 22:6, *"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."* Our words have a tremendous impact on people, especially those in our family. Proverbs 16:21, *"The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning."* If we want our children to learn, we must use words of life with them.

Deliver discipline. Chuck Swindoll refers to children as having the "bents." We are all really children of Adam and Eve, and as such have a bent toward self-will and sin. God has positioned parents strategically in order to provide discipline and correction for children. Proverbs 29:15, *"The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame."* Proverbs 22:15, *"Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him."* When we correct our children, it's important to do it out of love. Proverbs 3:12, *"For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth."* If you delight in your kids, you will discipline them. The corrections of discipline are the way to life. We don't discipline for our sake, but for the well being of our children. If we want them to live life to its fullest, we must do our job of correcting them when they need it. In other words, we are really doing our kids a favor when we discipline them.



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Proverbs 29:17, *“Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.”* 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. **I can tell, but never teach, until I practice what I preach.**

5. Wisdom For Children.

Proverbs also provides some helpful principles for children and teenagers. Let’s take a look at four pieces of Wisdom. **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. Proverbs 10:1, *“A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.”*

Choose friends wisely. The old saying goes like this: Show me your friends and I’ll show you your future. Some young people struggle spiritually because of the friends they hang out with. Proverbs 28:7, *“Whoso keepeth the law is a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous men shameth his father.”*

Listen to instruction. Proverbs 19:27 *“Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge.”* I know many of you don’t believe this, but even the discipline you receive when you mess up is a good thing. Your parents are actually doing you a favor, so try to not become bitter toward them. Proverbs 15:5, *“A fool despiseth his father’s instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent.”*

Respect your parents. Some of you may feel like your parents are out to lunch, and sometimes they 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 where it says, *“The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.”*

The story is told of two steam boats that left Memphis about the same time, traveling down the Mississippi River to New Orleans. As they traveled side by side, sailors from one vessel looked over at the other and words were exchanged. Challenges were made. And the race began. Competition became vicious as the two boats roared through the Deep South. One boat began falling behind. Not enough fuel. There had been plenty of coal for the trip, but not enough for a race. As the boat dropped back, an enterprising young sailor took some of the ship’s cargo and tossed it into the ovens. When the sailors saw that the supplies burned as well as the coal, they fueled their boat with the material they had been assigned to transport. They ended up winning the race, but burned their cargo.