

Wisdom from the Proverbs

“A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:” — Proverbs 1:5.

Honoring Father and Mother

The Proverbs give us practical and blessed wisdom for every-day living. One important facet of proverbial teaching is that one honor his father and his mother. This is, in the words of the New Covenant, the first commandment with promise. Allow me to quote that blessed commandment with promise from the New Testament.

Ephesians 6:1-3 (KJV) *Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.*

Proverbs 1:8-9 (KJV) *My son, hear the instruction of thy **father**, and forsake not the law of thy **mother**: For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.*

Proverbs 6:20-22 (KJV) *My son, keep thy **father's** commandment, and forsake not the law of thy **mother**: Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck. When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.*

Proverbs 30:17 (KJV) *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.*

- Many children, in our modern day, believe they know much more than their parents. They refuse to listen. No wonder so many are fools—not knowing which way to turn in life.

- Those who mock parents and despise to obey them reap for themselves a life of trouble tending toward death. Honoring parents adds both longer life and blessing to one's life. It shall be well with them.

Proverbs 10:1 (KJV) *The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad **father**: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his **mother**.*

Proverbs 15:20 (KJV) *A wise son maketh a glad **father**: but a foolish man despiseth his **mother**.*

- There are two kinds of people noted in the Proverbs—the wise and the foolish. A person is either one or the other and cannot be both. Wise children make both Dad and Mom glad—while fools cause them grief.

Proverbs 19:26 (KJV) *He that wasteth **his father**, and chaseth away **his mother**, is a son that causeth shame, and bringeth reproach.*

Proverbs 28:24 (KJV) *Whoso robbeth **his father or his mother**, and saith, It is no transgression; the same is the companion of a destroyer.*

- Foolish children waste or abuse their fathers and mothers. They wrest their substance from their parents— or borrow never to pay back. Such children cause shame and bring reproach upon themselves. All men know, innately, that it is wrong to waste father and mother.
- There are some children who think it is no sin before God to rob and waste their parents. How does God view it? Such children are the companions of destroyers (murderers).

Proverbs 20:20 (KJV) *Whoso curseth his **father or his mother**, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness.*

- Cursing father and mother brings a child to death. Such is the language of the writer of the proverbs. It is plain to see that the writer speaks not only of very young children, but mainly of those who have grown up a bit physically—probably to adulthood.

Proverbs 23:22-25 (KJV) *Hearken unto thy **father** that begat thee, and despise not thy **mother** when she is old. Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding. The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him. **Thy father and thy mother shall be glad**, and she that bare thee shall rejoice.*

Proverbs 30:11 (KJV) *There is a generation that curseth their **father**, and doth not bless their **mother**.*

- Our present generation is plagued with children who are disobedient to parents, rebellious, rude, obnoxious, lazy, and insolent. Failure of parents to train their children in the ways of the Lord is, no doubt, a prime cause. This preacher has heard children actually curse at their parents – even when they were grown to adulthood. The LORD’s commandment to honor our Father and Mother does not stop when we come to adulthood – no, it carries on throughout our whole life.