

Instructions for Successful Living - Pt 4 Parents/Children - cont'd

PROVERBS

In the book of Proverbs there are 41 references addressed to “sons” 23 of these are appeals of a father to his son to listen to his instruction &/or to keep his heart on the right path. These instructions reveal a passionate desire on the part of the Father for the son to succeed in life - therefore, the father is making his appeal to his son to be wise. Listen to the heart of a father in Proverbs 4:

PROVERBS 4:20-27

KEY WORDS

vs 20 - listen closely - implies a meaningful relationship, intimate communication/sharing, rather than harsh impersonal commands

vs 21 - within your heart - this is a heart connection - a heart-to-heart exchange - not a demand for certain behavior

vs 22 - life & health - this is what the father desires for the son

a/ life - majority of uses pertain to quality of life that is opposite to trouble, punishment, death and compared to honor, prosperity, goodness.

Prov 12:28 “In the way of righteousness there is life...”

Prov 19:23 “The fear of the Lord leads to life...”

b/ health - lit a medicine or cure - from rapha - cure, heal, repair, thoroughly make whole (Exo 15:26 “...for I am the Lord who heals you.”)

vs 23 - Son, first priority is to guard your heart...

PURPOSE CLEARLY IS TO PREPARE CHILD FOR SUCCESSFUL ADULT LIVING - NOT JUST TO STOP CHILDISH BEHAVIOR

Parents - Don't Exasperate, Do Train & Instruct
Ephesians 6:4

I. Three Commands Given to Parents

Three commands are given to parents regarding their children, one is in the negative and two are in the positive.

We will consider the Negative first and then the positive.

A. Do not exasperate your children

1/ Gk = arouse to wrath, provoke to anger

2/ anger begets anger

3/ requiring perfection

4/ offended that you must correct

B. bring them up

1/ bring them - do not drive them - this implies a life lived as example before them

2/ nourish, bring to maturity (life dedication) in all aspects of life

3/ see Eph 5:29

C. training & instruction

1/ training - the whole educational process including nurture, cultivation, using instruction & correction to shape mind (intellect) & heart (moral)

2/ instruction - calling attention to (verbal)

D. of the Lord. (see the Msg)

1/ involves parent's life as an example

2/ within the guidelines of Christian living/relationships/mutual submission (5:21)

II. PRACTICAL APPLICATION

A. Guard Your Heart - Proverbs 4:23-27

- 1/ vs 23a be diligent to guard your heart
- 2/ vs 23b life flows from within the heart
- 3/ vs 24 impacts your speech
- 4/ vs 25 impacts eyes (what comes in)
- 5/ vs 26 impacts choices (what you do)
- 6/ vs 27 ultimately this determines your path

B. Luke 6:45 The **good man** brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.

C. Instructions to Timothy - 1 Timothy 1:5

- 1/ goal is love that comes from...
- a/ a pure heart (guarding the heart)
- b/ a good conscience (mouth, eyes, feet)
- c/ a sincere faith (not left or right)