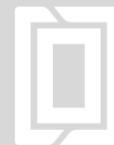


## PARENTING THROUGH PROVERBS (pt 2)

Selected Proverbs



MAY 12, 2019 | DAVID ANDERSON

1) Do you remember the moment you realized that your child, just like you, was born a sinner?

2) What's our children's only solution to their sin problem?

3) Read these Proverbs below. Where are our children especially vulnerable?

- Proverbs 14:16, "A wise man is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is arrogant and careless."
- Proverbs 27:12, "A prudent man sees evil *and* hides himself, the naive proceed *and* pay the penalty."
- Proverbs 14:15, "The naïve believes everything, but a prudent man considers his steps."
- Proverbs 24:1-2, "Do not be envious of evil men, nor desire to be with them; for their minds devise violence, and their lips talk of trouble."
- Proverbs 13:20, "He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm."
- Proverbs 21:17, "He who loves pleasure will become a poor man; He who loves wine and oil will not become rich."
- Proverbs 16:32, "He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city."
- Proverbs 25:16-17, "Have you found honey? Eat only what you need, lest you have it in excess and vomit it. Let your foot rarely be in your neighbor's house, lest he become weary of you and hate you."
- Proverbs 25:28, "Like a city that is broken into and without walls is a man who has no control over his spirit."

4) Proverbs 4:23 proclaims, "Guard your heart with all vigilance, for from it are the sources of life." Ultimately as parents we need to be preoccupied by what's going on in the hearts of our children. Below are some steps. Think through these steps as a HUB group and discuss them.

1) Our children need to grow in their understanding of shame and address their desire to hide and cover sin and guilt. We as parents and our children love the wrong self. We love the impressive self. We have a constant drive to impress and so do our kids. As a result we try to fix our bad by being good, and when that doesn't work we hide and cover and become unknown.

2) Our children need to understand which part Jesus loves and pursues. This is where the Pharisees and religious leaders got it all wrong (Matt 23, Luke 12, Mark 7). Which part does Jesus love? The impressive me or the unimpressive me? He loves the unimpressive self. Those who love the impressive self always ask Jesus, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus always answers, "Those who are well don't need a physician, but those who are sick do. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Luke 5:30-32, Romans 5:8, 1 John 4:10).

3) Just like our loving, heavenly Father, we as parents need to be focused on the unimpressive parts of our kids. Sin, shame and guilt are deep and we can't be afraid as parents, but we must grow in taking our kids into their hearts. We need forgiveness and we need it every day. We need a Savior and we need Him every day.

- Next time your child hides or is deceptive, ask him/her the next day - what made you want to hide that from mommy or daddy or grandma?
- Next time they have an over the top reaction or an unusual or strong reaction to something, take a moment at some time and ask them - what were you feeling?
- Give them options to help them articulate their hearts.
  - Is it because you feel like you are being treated unfairly?
  - It is because you are angry about what happened to you?
  - Is it because you are lonely?

In age appropriate ways, our kids desperately need skills to know what is going on inside them. In order to do this, we can't be afraid of their bad, but need to demonstrate what Jesus demonstrates every day in our lives.

5) This week, how can we pray for your heart parenting of your children?