

PARENTING THROUGH PROVERBS pt 3

Selected Proverbs



MAY 19, 2019 | DAVID ANDERSON

Solomon says that there is one sure sign that you are loved by your parents. There is one way you can know for sure that your father or mother is rooting for you. It's not how expensive your birthday gift is or how many battle packs you are allowed to buy for Fortnite. It's not when you get a smartphone or if you are allowed to go out with that boy or that girl you have your eye on.

How do you know if your parents love you? Listen to Solomon's words:

My child, do not despise discipline from the LORD, and do not loathe his rebuke. For the LORD disciplines those he loves, just as a father disciplines the son in whom he delights. –Proverbs 3:11-12

The writer of Hebrews in chapter 12:5-6 and 11 says: Don't forget the message to all legitimate sons and daughters out there. The Lord disciplines the one He loves and chastises every son He accepts. For what son is there that a father does not discipline? All discipline seems painful at the time, not joyful, but later it produces the fruit of peace and righteousness for those trained by it.

Solomon also says in Proverbs 12:1, "Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid." Proverbs 29:15, "A rod and reproof impart wisdom, but a child who is unrestrained brings shame to his mother."

There are two types of discipline or consequences for our children described in Proverbs:

CONSEQUENCES THAT WE AS PARENTS GET TO DETERMINE	CONSEQUENCES THAT NATURALLY HAPPEN IF NO ONE INTERFERES
<p>Why do we as parents discipline? Our children are like blind people, searching for a wall they can't see. They are going to push forward and test to see where the actual boundaries lie.</p>	<p>All 66 Books of the Bible are filled with stories and illustrations of this idea of sowing and reaping. Probably more than any other Book in Scripture, Proverbs lays out this biblical idea of sowing and reaping. If you do this, 9 out of 10 times this will happen.</p>
<p>Proverbs 6:23: For the commandment is a lamp, and the teaching is light; And reproofs for discipline are the way of life.</p> <p>Proverbs 15:31-32: He whose ear listens to the life-giving reproof will dwell among the wise. He who neglects discipline despises himself, But he who listens to reproof acquires understanding.</p>	<p>Proverbs 22:8: The one who sows iniquity will reap trouble.</p> <p>Proverbs 10:5: The one who gathers crops in the summer is a wise son, but the one who sleeps during the harvest is a son who brings shame to himself.</p> <p>Proverbs 11:19: True righteousness leads to life, but the one who pursues evil pursues it to his own death.</p>

In discipline, the punishment needs to fit the crime and there need to be things that deserve greater consequences.

Ultimately, the goal is to bring sin to the light so that Jesus can heal, forgive and restore.

As parents, we are always picking our pain. Do we go through the pain now or are we going through the pain later?

Ultimately we are training our kids how to interact in healthy and meaningful ways with people, society and their God.

When you hear the phrase - you reap what you sow - it is usually expressed in a self-righteous, punitive, "you get what you deserve" type of attitude. This is not the case with God and it should not be the case with parents.

Our precious children that we so love need to know that God has designed this world in such a way for our protection and that there are consequences to our decisions.

As the writer of Hebrews says: His desire is to produce in us a fruit of peace and righteousness. Allowing our children to feel the consequences of life is one of the most loving things we can do and by far one of the most emotionally difficult things we can do.

HAPPY, HEALTHY KIDS!

I did a survey of some of the parenting books out there and it appears that the #1 objective for parents these days is to have happy kids. Seems like a good goal. I want my 5 kids to be happy, but what does this mean?

If you were to watch parents these days - if you were to watch our own parenting - you would probably conclude that happiness must be secured through minimizing our kids struggles. Failure and challenge are the last things we want our kids to experience. Who wants to watch their kids struggle? Not me! Not you! We want them to succeed and be happy!

Parenting questions to consider:

1. Is the success that we are artificially generating for our kids coming at a cost?
2. Is the fear, pain, and challenge we are sheltering them from going to adversely affect them?
3. When do we interfere and when do we allow them to face the consequences of decisions we warned them against?

Solomon has a classical view of happiness. Happiness isn't rooted in the most recent accomplishment. Happiness isn't the chase of an experience or a feeling. Happiness is not contingent on external circumstances or self-absorbed pursuits. Happiness, according to Proverbs, is deeper than all of that. It's bigger than that; it takes longer than that!

This is the kind of happiness that Solomon says we must pray for in our kids:

He who heeds the word wisely will find good, And whoever trusts in the LORD, happy is he. . . (Prov. 16:20)

Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding; For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her . . . Her ways are ways of pleasantness, And all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who retain her. . . He who heeds the word wisely will find good, And whoever trusts in the LORD, happy is he. (Prov. 3:13-15, 17-18)