

“Wisdom with Wee Ones – Part Two”

- I. **Worldly “Wisdom’s” Incorrect Assumptions:** Children are a “blank slate”; If the right parents do the right things in the right way any child can turn out “right.”
- This often produces Guilt or Glory; Fanaticism or Fatalism.
  - But godly people can end up with ungodly children (Prov. 10:1; 13:1; 15:20; 17:25).
  - Parents are responsible before God for their role as parents but children are responsible before God for their CHOICES / BEHAVIOR (Deut. 24:16; Ezek. 18)
- II. **Wisdom’s Insights**
- A. Children are SINFUL (Ps. 51:5; 58:3; Prov. 22:15; 29:15)
  - B. You cannot SAVE your children (John 1:11-13; Jer. 13:23; Acts 13:48)
  - C. Children are SIMPLE / Naïve (Prov. 1-9; 15:6, 16-17)
  - D. Children are CHILDISH (impulsive – Prov. 7:22-23; 14:16; 19:2; insensitive to danger – Prov. 27:12; 5:10-11; 6:10-11, 32-33; easily influenced by others – Prov. 14:15; 13:20; 22:24-25; undisciplined – Prov. 16:32; 21:17, 20; 25:28; don’t appreciate parental discipline – Prov. 3:11-12; 13:24; 15:5, 10; have a flawed value system – Prov. 15:16-17; 16:16)
- III. **Wisdom’s Instructions**
- A. Fear the LORD – Prov. 1:7, 29; 2:5; 8:13; 9:10; 10:27; 14:26f; 15:3, 16, 29, 33; 16:2, 6-7; 19:23; 21:2; 22:4; 23:17; 28:13-14; 29:25
  - B. Love / Seek Knowledge & Wisdom – 1:7-9, 20-33; 2:1-11; 3:1-8, 13-26; 4:1-13; 20-23; 5:1-2, 7; 6:20-23; 7:1-4; 8:1-36; 9:1-6, 9-11; 10:1, 17; 11:14; 12:15; 13:10, 13-16; 14:1, 15-16; 15:14, 20-22; 16:16, 20-23; 17:2, 21, 24-25; 18:15; 19:8, 20-21, 25, 27; 20:15; 21:16; 22:1, 15, 17-21; 23:12, 15-19, 22-25; 24:3-6, 13-14; 27:9, 11-12, 17; 29:3
  - C. Honor / Obey Parents (Authority) – Prov. 5:7; 7:24; 8:6, 32; 13:1; 19:20; 20:20; 23:19; 23:22
  - D. Control Yourself (Body, Mind, Emotions) – Prov. 5:20-23; 6:9f; 9:13-18; 10:26; 12:27; 13:4; 15:19; 18:9; 19:24; 20:4; 21:25f; 22:13; 25:28; 26:13ff; 28:7; 29:11
  - E. Watch Your Words – Prov. 4:24; 6:13; 10:11, 13, 18-21; 11:9, 11; 12:18, 25; 13:2-3, 14; 14:3, 25; 15:1-4, 23; 16:24, 27-28; 12:13-14, 19; 16:28; 17:20; 18:7, 20
  - F. Select Friends / Companions Carefully – Prov. 13:20; 14:6-7; 28:7; 16:28; 17:9; 18:22, 24; 19:4, 14; 20:19; 21:9; 22:24-27; 23:6-8; 24:21-22; 27:5-6, 17; 28:7; 31:10-31
  - G. Enjoy Your Spouse – Prov. 2:17 cf. 16:28 & 17:9; 5:15ff; 12:4; 18:22; 31:10-31; Song of Solomon
  - H. Work Hard – Prov. 6:6-11; 10:4; 22:29; 1 Cor. 15

- I. Manage Your Money – Prov. 3:9f; 6:1-5; 11:15; 13:22; 14:20-21, 31; 17:5; 19:6-7, 14, 17; 21:13; 22:9, 16, 22, 26-27; 28:8, 27; 29:7, 13-14; 31:18-20
  
- J. Love Your Neighbor – Prov. 3:27-29; 11:12; 25:8f

#### Discussion Questions:

1. Based on last week's sermon, what are some things for which parents might feel "false guilt?" Are there things for which parents should feel guilty? What can they do about those things?
2. Think back to your childhood. What were some of the best things your parents ever taught you? What famous mottos or sayings did your parents pass on to you?
3. What does it mean to "fear the LORD?" How are you instilling a fear of the LORD in your children? What example are you setting? What exhortations are you giving?
4. How do you instill in your children a love for learning? What is your example in this area? How can you demonstrate this at home? At church? What is the difference between knowledge and wisdom? How are you helping your children become wise with the knowledge they possess?
5. What does the word "honor" mean? What is the difference between "honor" and "obedience?" How are you instilling in your children honor (or respect) when it comes to PEOPLE and to PROPERTY?
6. Self-control is critical in life. How are you teaching your children self-control with their bodies, minds, and emotions? How is your example in each of those areas? What specific things could you do this week to be a better example in each of those areas?
7. Why is it so important to select the right friends? What are you doing to help your children in this area? What might keep some parents from intervening in their child's selection of friends? How would you help a parent overcome those things?
8. Marriage partners are to be enjoyed! What gets in the way of that? Do your kids see your marriage as something enjoyable and exhilarating? How could you make it better this week? [See sermon on "Wisdom for the Wed"]
9. What are you currently doing to help your children learn how to earn, save, and spend money as godly stewards? [See four part sermon series on "Wisdom with Wealth"]
10. What does it mean to "love your neighbor?" What are some things that don't show love for a neighbor? What are some ways you are modeling love for your neighbors in your neighborhood? At work? At church? Out on the streets?
11. If you have grown children and feel like you have failed to do the things we have studied and were not a godly example to them, what should you do about it? What are some practical ways you could seek forgiveness? How could you begin to be a more godly influence in their lives?
12. What is the role of grandparents in helping raise godly children? What are the practical things you are doing to bless your children's children and point them to the LORD?