
*“Equipping believers for **growth** and **service** by encountering God through his word.”*

The Bible for Today

September 30, 2009



Our Study Divisions of Proverbs: Using Kenneth Aitken

1. Types of Characters/ People One Encounters in life
2. **Wisdom in Various Places**
 - The Home
 - The Community
 - The Market
 - The Law Court
 - The Palace (Government/ Rulers)
 - The Wisdom School
3. Way of God and Ways of the Humankind

Wisdom in the Home: Parental Discipline

22:62

29:15

20:30

22:15

19:18

29:17

13:24

23:13

23:14

Prov. 22:6— key text (cf. Deut. 6)

- Training to fit need and aptitude of child; “the way he should go,” i.e., the way of wisdom; not the child’s way but wisdom’s way.
- Discipline is always about instruction first (a listening ear); secondary is punishment.
- Reproof in discipline— “sound reasoning, as in a courtroom.”

Prov. 13:24— the rod: careful of abuse; what part does discipline play? Parental higher wisdom: How does one instruct a child in the current situation?

Wisdom in the Home: Parental Discipline

Teaching wisdom to a child is:

- Difficult because of stubbornness;
- Important because of a child's simplicity (teach them while there is hope in reasoning with them);
- Serious because leaving them to their own "free expression" can lead to shame and their own death.

Wisdom in the Home: Honoring Parents

An Appeal:

10:1
15:20
17:21
17:25
23:24
23:25
23:15
23:16
27:11

Hallmarks of the wise child

13:11
15:5
23:22
30:17
30:11
20:20
19:26
28:24
10:5
29:3
28:7

Children may not choose the path of wisdom: what went wrong?
“Grieve the father.”

Two groupings of sayings:

1. **An appeal** to children to honor their parents (Prov. 23:25);
2. Honoring parents is the mark of a **wise child**.

Wisdom in the Home: Honoring Parents

Ways wise children honor parents: (Ex. 20:12, cf., Col. 3:20)

1. **Listen:** listening can help the child make wise choices;
2. **Don't speak ill of parents:** place a curse on them; speak harmfully— defame, revile;
3. **Don't mistreat parents:** violence/ physical; putting father out of the house; take property out of pretense of helping parents (Mk 7:9-13);
4. **Work:** work at home and see work as part of life;
5. **Watch the company you keep:** can bring misery, pain, dishonor, grief, death.

Wisdom in the Home: The Husband/ Wife

Husband:

11:29
27:8
20:7

Wife:

19:13
27:15
27:16
21:9
25:24
21:19

Good Wife:

18:22
12:4
14:1
19:14
31:10-31

Marriage can be amazing or agonizing. Be **wise** in selecting a mate, making marriage decisions, and remembering one's responsibilities.

Husbands: don't stray from home; tend to your children and responsibilities there; live with integrity— it will bring a blessing to your home.

Wisdom in the Home: The Husband/ Wife

A Good Wife– A true gift from God:

- Strength and firmness of character; integrity;
- Also a person of wisdom;

Prov. 31:10-31 (acrostic):

- A good wife is not idle, working in the home and managing the household;
- A good wife is prudent in business
- A good wife has an open heart to the poor and needy
- A good wife has time and tends to the needs of children
- A good wife's secret: "fear of the Lord"

End result: she will be adorned and praised by the family

Wisdom in the Home: Old Age

17:6
20:29
16:31

Blessing comes with grandchildren and healthy “generation to generation.” Sins of the father...

Wisdom should come with older age; we have to learn the lessons also in our youth and live them over our entire lives. “Practicing what we preach.”

Gray hair should be a visible crown of living a righteous life.

Wisdom in the Community: A Good Name

22:1
10:7
13:15
12:8
11:27
21:21
18:3
11:16
11:22
27:21

- Prov. 22:1– “a name” related to reputation; those with a poor reputation are ‘nameless.’
- Hebrew– one’s name is not a label but the outward expression of the inward character and nature.
- A good name corresponds to the actual nature of the person; important in that it brings “immortality.” Poor reputation after death is ‘nameless.’
- Reputation is behind ‘favor’ (acceptance/ approval) and ‘honor’ (his or her influence in the community).

Wisdom in the Community: A Good Name

22:1
10:7
13:15
12:8
11:27
21:21
18:3
11:16
11:22
27:21

- Outer beauty should be a result of inner beauty; wealth an reflection of good done in the community, not obtained by ill-gotten means.
- Disgraceful (root 'to be light') "lightweights/" like chaff will blow away-- be nameless. (18:3)
- Favor and honor bestowed by the community/ recognition of the reputation of the person (27:21); A person's character is a reflection of the testing of his or her reputation in daily life.
- What is one's reputation outside the community faith? How does the world encounter us as well as the community of faith?

Wisdom in the Community: Friends and Neighbors

Friends

18:24
17:17
27:10
27:9
27:6
27:17

Neighbors

26:18
26:19
25:17
27:14
17:9
25:8
25:9
25:10

- There are pretender friends and friends who are real friends. “stick/ cling” cf. Ruth 1:14. Times of trouble/ testing identify which type of friend.
- Prov. 27:10– keep working at long friendships; [not sure what the brother’s house means- ‘don’t pester your brother’]; in crisis, those close may be more helpful than those far.
- Prov. 27:9– unsure of Hebrew “but friendship is sweeter than one’s own counsel.”
- Prov. 27: 6– “wounds” truth coming from a friend.
- Prov. 27:17– character develops by interaction with others.

Wisdom in the Community: Friends and Neighbors

Friends

18:24
17:17
27:10
27:9
27:6
27:17

Neighbors

26:18
26:19
25:17
27:14
17:9
25:8
25:9
25:10

Friendship/ neighborliness comes by tending and nurturing it. Five pieces of advice:

1. Know when a joke is not a joke (28:18-19).
2. Don't be a pest to your neighbor (25:17). Enter your neighbor's house when invited.
3. Don't be inconsiderate (27:14)
4. Don't tell lies (17:9). Gossip or telling true events behind a friend's back or without their consent.
5. Don't betray confidences (25:8-10). Settle your conflicts in private, not loudly in public.

Wisdom in the Community: Enemies and Revenge

20:22
17:13

24:17
24:18
25:21
25:22
16:7

We do not choose our enemies, but we can choose our responses to them.

Lex teleonis no more than an eye for an eye; Proverbs says there is a better way. We are to wait on God—we might be surprised how God responds/ brings balance to the act of the enemy. (Prov.17:13-- David/ Bathsheba)

Repay evil with kindness; “burning coals”— Egyptian practice/ a brazier of burning coals on one’s head—a sign of remorse for wrong-doing/ shame. (Rom. 12:20-21)

The paradox— our nature is to seek retaliation, revenge.
Peacemaking is to be our behavior— this pleases God.

The Bible for Today

- Discipline should be a parental place of wisdom for instructing a child; what will best help the child to learn the lesson?
- A true friendship is worth the value of gold.
- Our name reflects our character and actions.
- Peacemaking is of God/ God at work in us.
- Parenting is hard work! Col. 3:21; Eph:6:4.
- The home: husband/ wife— Eph. 5:21-6:9; Col. 3:18-19.