

Parenting from Proverbs

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April 1 & 2, 2016 - Grace Community Bible Church, Tomball, TX

Session 3

In our last session, we introduced the topic of postmodern parenting, focusing on Proverbs 22:6. We clarified that this verse is not a promise, but a warning. It tells us that if we don't intervene in the natural inclinations of our children, they will grow up following their own passions. We also discussed Proverbs 29:15 and the significance of using the rod and reproof for discipline, and how this correlates with Ephesians 6:4.

One thing I didn't mention before is the importance of distinguishing between the rules of the household and the rules of God. For example, the rules of God—no lying, no cheating, no stealing—are non-negotiable. These are moral imperatives. However, household rules—such as curfews or making the bed—are flexible. Understanding this difference is critical for children, as they need to learn what is truly moral versus what is specific to the household.

Today, we're going to address an issue that's significantly impacting our culture: sexuality.

There's a sexual revolution going on that affects young people, regardless of whether they are homeschooled or attend Christian schools. This issue is pervasive, and we need to address it from a biblical perspective.

We will focus on five key points from Scripture, particularly from Proverbs, which remain incredibly relevant for child-rearing today. God's Word is inerrant and sufficient, and His instructions regarding parenting are as applicable now as they were when they were written.

1. Guard the Heart

Before addressing the issue of sexuality, Proverbs 4:23 tells us to

"Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life."

Solomon is already addressing his son's heart, which is vital. The heart dictates speech, directs the eyes, and guides the feet. This is critical because ***what happens in the heart determines how a person acts.***

In modern society, when sexuality is taught, it's often framed purely as biological function. The assumption is that children will engage in sexual activity, so it's just a matter of doing it "safely"—preventing pregnancy or STDs. However, the Bible approaches this differently, focusing on deeper heart issues rather than just biological urges.

2. Instruct Children About the Dangers of Sexual Sin

Children often don't see the consequences of their actions. They think in terms of immediate gratification. Proverbs 5 warns of the forbidden woman and her seductive words, which may seem sweet like honey, but in the end, are bitter as wormwood. The adulteress leads to destruction, and her ways end in death. It is crucial for children to understand the dangers of sexual sin, even if they don't immediately see the consequences.

3. Teach Children the Consequences of Sexual Sin

Proverbs 5:7-14 emphasize the importance of physical and metaphorical distance from sexual sin. Solomon tells his sons to stay away from the house of the adulteress, as engaging in sexual sin leads to loss—loss of honor, strength, and ultimately life. Falling into sexual sin is a path of destruction, leading to regret and shame.

4. Teach That God Created Sex as Good Within the Right Context

Sex, when practiced within the boundaries of heterosexual, monogamous marriage, is good and beautiful. Genesis 1 and 2 describe the marriage relationship between Adam and Eve as "very good." This is God's design. When children understand this, they begin to see aberrant desires for what they are—deviations from God's intended design.

As parents, we need to paint a beautiful picture of God's design for sex, helping our children understand that the goal of sex is to serve their spouse, not to fulfill personal gratification.

5. Help Children Understand That Sexual Sin Is Enslaving

Sexual sin has a powerful and enslaving effect. Proverbs 5:22 says that "the iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is held fast in the cords of his sin." While children may feel like they are exercising freedom, they are actually being enslaved by their lusts. Over time, they lose control, and their sin becomes a source of helplessness.

The world promotes freedom of sexual expression, but this "freedom" leads to slavery. God's view is radically different—true freedom comes from obedience to Him.

6. Teach That Sexual Failure Begins in the Heart

Proverbs 6:25 and 7:25 both emphasize that sexual sin starts in the heart. Solomon's teaching to his son is consistent: the heart must be guarded, because it is from the heart that desires arise. Sexual sin is not just a matter of external behavior but a matter of heart orientation. A pure heart cannot be tempted.

The biblical example of Joseph in Genesis 39 shows us that a pure heart is able to resist temptation. Joseph fled from Potiphar's wife because his heart was aligned with God's will. This is the aim of biblical parenting—to guide children towards pure hearts that are able to resist sexual temptation.

Appendix 1

Scripture References

1. Proverbs 22:6

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it."

2. Proverbs 29:15

"The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother."

3. Ephesians 6:4

"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

4. Proverbs 4:23

"Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life."

5. Proverbs 5:1-5

"My son, be attentive to my wisdom; incline your ear to my understanding, that you may keep discretion, and your lips may guard knowledge. For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil, but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps follow the path to Sheol."

6. Proverbs 5:7-14

"And now, O sons, listen to me, and do not depart from the words of my mouth. Keep your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house, lest you give your honor to others and your years to the merciless..."

7. Genesis 1:31

"And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good."

8. Proverbs 5:15-19

"Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well. Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams of water in the streets? Let them be for yourself alone, and not for

strangers with you. Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth..."

9. Proverbs 5:22

"The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is held fast in the cords of his sin."

10. Proverbs 6:25

"Do not desire her beauty in your heart, and do not let her capture you with her eyelashes..."

11. Proverbs 7:25

"Let not your heart turn aside to her ways; do not stray into her paths..."

12. Genesis 39:9

"How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?"
