

Proverbs: Parenting

Honor your Parents

23:22-24 Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old. Buy the truth and do not sell it— wisdom, instruction and insight as well. The father of a righteous child has great joy; a man who fathers a wise son rejoices in him.

Honor your children

22:6 Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

Discipline but do not Exasperate

Proverbs 13:24 Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them.

Colossians 3:21 Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

Delight

23:25-26 May your father and mother rejoice; may she who gave you birth be joyful! My son, give me your heart and let your eyes delight in my ways,

Teach wisdom

4:3-4 For I too was a son to my father, still tender, and cherished by my mother. Then he taught me, and he said to me, “Take hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands, and you will live.

Questions

1. Family is a complex subject. Reflecting on our own parents, do you feel they were too strict or too lenient?
2. How do we honor our parents without worshipping them, or demanding our children obey us robotically?
3. How do we encourage our children to be wise, without controlling them, or being overly permissive?
4. How is discipline an act of love? How can become sinful?
5. How can you encourage your children? How can you show them you enjoy them and love them?
6. Where is God challenging you to be less strict and controlling, or less detached and permissive? How can God’s Spirit help you to be more wise, like our heavenly Father, both loving and offering correction?