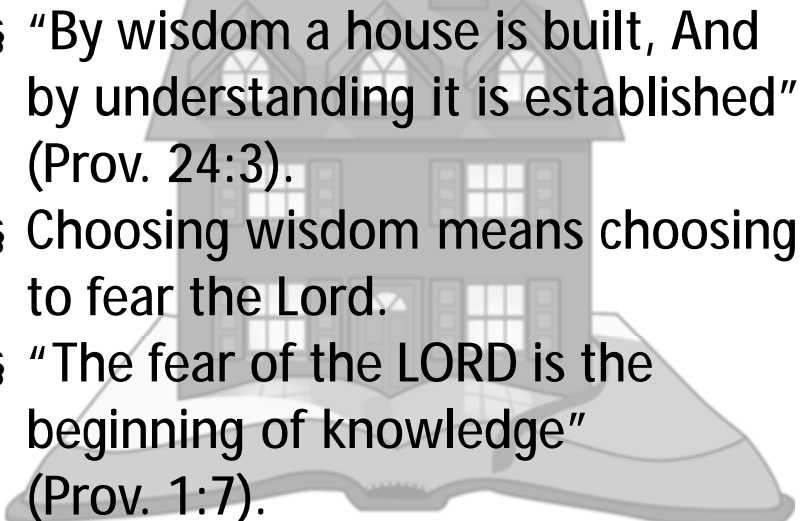


Proverbs for a Stable Family Life

Lesson 7

Wisdom: The Foundation

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- § “By wisdom a house is built, And by understanding it is established” (Prov. 24:3).
 - § Choosing wisdom means choosing to fear the Lord.
 - § “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge” (Prov. 1:7).

Wisdom: The Foundation

- § Truly fearing the Lord means having a personal relationship with Him.
- § “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me’” (John 14:6, NKJV).

A Stable Godly Home Will Have

- § Wisdom (Prov. 24:3)
- § Understanding (Prov. 24:3)
- § Knowledge (Prov. 24:3)
- § Fear of the Lord (Prov. 15:16)
- § Love (Prov. 15:16)
- § Peace (Prov. 17:1)

A Stable Home Is God's Gift

- § A good wife is a blessing from God (Prov. 18:22).
- § She is prudent (wise, sensible, understanding, insightful, congenial) (Prov. 19:14).
- § Children are a gift from God (Psalm 127:3).

What Causes Unhappy Homes?

- § No acknowledgement of God or His standards
- § No relationship with Him
- § No awareness of His gifts
- § Too self-absorbed to truly love others

Unhappy Christian Homes—Why?

- § One or both spouses not right with God and thus not right with each other
- § Rebellious children causing grief
- § Heartache from difficult circumstances and the need to grow in grace

What Can I Do?

- § Pray and seek God's help.
- § Obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit.
- § Memorize helpful verses.
- § Admit when I'm wrong.
- § Don't make excuses or blame shift.

What Can I Do?

- § Cultivate love for my husband.
- § Show him respect.
- § Genuinely listen to him.
- § Don't always have to have the last word.
- § Enjoy time together as a family.
- § Be kind, diligent, financially wise.

What Should Children Do?

- § Hear and obey their parents.
- § Accept discipline humbly and learn from it.
- § Have pure, honest, upright conduct.
- § Don't leave those godly lessons behind as they age!

What Should Parents Do?

- § Walk in integrity (being honest, having strong moral principles, internal consistency, lack of corruption)—by God's grace!
- § Practice what you preach.
- § Take training children seriously.
Help them know right from wrong.

What Should Parents Do?

- § Know your children well enough to direct them toward godly paths that suit their personalities and help them do right (Prov. 22:6).
- § Teach them to work and be responsible.
- § Teach them when you sit, walk, lie down, rise up (Deut. 6:7).

What Should Parents Do?

- § Admit when you're wrong; apologize.
- § Never stop praying for them—even when their choices disappoint you.
- § Ultimately, they are responsible for their choices, but you can keep praying for the return of the prodigal.

Biblical Discipline

- § Reproves (Prov. 13:24) = Heb. *yakah*. It's a type of correction motivated by love & a desire for repentance & restoration to fellowship, associated with education and discipline.

Biblical Discipline

- § Disciplines (Prov. 13:24) = Heb. *mûsar*. It implies corrective discipline, including paternal chastisement. It gives assurance of sonship, and it's most often associated with oral instruction.

Biblical Discipline

- Rod (Prov. 29:15) = Heb. *shebet*, an instrument for either remedial or penal punishment, used for a slave, a fool, & a son. In Prov. a symbol of discipline; failure to use the preventive discipline of verbal rebuke & the corrective discipline of physical punishment leads to death.

When we love, we correct. We're following God's example. "Rod & reproof" = physical correction coupled with verbal instruction. Letting a child have his own way is shameful and results in a spoiled, selfish child. A child who receives correction learns self-discipline. He will comfort & delight his parents' souls.

Grandchildren are the crown of the old, And the glory of sons is their fathers (Prov. 17:6).



Proverbs 7:1-3

My son, obey my words, and treasure my commands.
Keep my commands and live, and guard my instructions as you would the pupil of your eye.
Tie them to your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart.

§ Then you will go safely on your way; your foot will not stumble (Proverbs 3:23).

§ Cherish her [wisdom], and she will exalt you; if you embrace her, she will honor you (Proverbs 4:8).

Proverbs 4:3-4

- § When I was a son to my father,
Tender and the only son in the
sight of my mother,
- § Then he taught me and said
to me, “Let your heart hold
fast my words; Keep my
commandments and live.”

*The father of the righteous
will greatly rejoice,
And he who sires a wise son
will be glad in him.*

Proverbs 23:24

Final Thoughts

- § It's easy to be intimidated by
the high standards for wives &
mothers in Proverbs.
- § Remember “I can do all things
through Christ who strengthens
me” (Philippians 4:13).