

## A WORD OF ADVICE...FOR PARENTS

By: Allen Webster

In Proverbs, Solomon invites us into the intimacy of his family circle. Twenty-three times<sup>1</sup> in the book he addresses “my son.” Forty times he mentions mothers and fathers. Five times he mentions a wife (5:18; 6:29; 18:22; 19:13-14) and five additional times he mentions a wise, virtuous, or gracious woman (possibly referring to his wife or a future daughter-in-law). Let’s allow the world’s wise man to give us the verbs we need to successfully prepare our children for heaven.

### OBSERVE YOUR CHILD

“Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right” (Pro. 20:11). The American Standard Version has, “Even a child maketh himself known by his doings.” The phrase “maketh himself known” implies adult observation. The next verse says, “The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the Lord hath made both of them” (20:12). Solomon seems to be saying that God gave us senses for a reason—to use them to watch and listen to our children. Some parents keep a notebook in which they assimilate meaningful patterns (interests, intelligence, abilities, social skills) in the child’s conduct. We can use such information to turn children’s hearts toward heaven.

### ACCEPT YOUR CHILD

A parent’s approval is important. Solomon knew he was “his father’s son”<sup>2</sup> (Pro. 4:3), which is another way of saying that he was “Daddy’s boy.” Solomon begins Proverbs by identifying himself as the “son of David” (1:1)—not a preacher (as he did in Ecclesiastes), king, wise man, husband, or scientist, although he was each of these and more. Parents succeed when they create an atmosphere of acceptance and foster a sense of belonging. This

goes against the grain with some parents who set high goals for their children and drive them hard to fulfill those dreams. This is good to a point, but wisdom creates room for falling short and doing better next time. When a child feels he is never good enough for Dad or that she never does well enough to earn Mom’s approval, frustration or depression may develop.

We can focus so much on what children are not doing right, that we do not see what they are doing well. One said, “A father needs to be on his child’s team—not on his back” (cf. Rom. 14:19). We must not expect an adult head to sit on a child’s shoulders. We should remember what it was like to be three, six, and sixteen and give children room to make mistakes, develop, learn, and grow. Perhaps Reader’s Digest said it best: Rearing children is like holding a very wet bar of soap—too firm a grasp and it shoots from your hand, too loose and it slides away. A gentle but firm grasp keeps it in your control.<sup>3</sup>

### MANAGE THE CHILD

Matthew Henry commented on “even a child is known by his doings,” saying, “Parents should observe their children, that they may manage them accordingly.”<sup>4</sup> Only important people have managers. Professional athletes have managers; actors have managers; presidents have managers. And children of Christian parents have managers. Children are that important (Matt. 18:3; 19:13-15). The psalmist compared children to arrows in the hand of a mighty man: “As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate” (Ps. 127:4-5).

As an arrow needs to be aimed and propelled to reach its target, we both aim and propel our children toward heaven. What we reward and encourage gets repeated (humility, sharing, humor, love); what we punish and discourage (lying, pride, aggression, selfishness) is gradually eliminated.

A child with temperamental difficulties needs especially strong, loving management. Such children often turn out to be highly creative, successful, even exceptional people—like Winston Churchill—but they need more management than “easy” children. Mothers especially have a powerful influence in aiming and pushing children in the right direction in their tender years. Some think this is the reason that mothers are mentioned in the Old Testament histories of the kings (1 Kings 15:13; 2 Kings 24:12; 2 Chron. 22:3). It seems that Lois and Eunice were the sole Christian family influences that molded Timothy into a capable preacher (cf. 2 Tim. 1:5; 3:14-15).

### SHOW YOUR CHILD

“My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways” (Pro. 23:26). More is caught than taught. In her autobiography, Linda Ellerbee, then co-anchor of NBC News Overnight, wrote that she once received this letter from a little girl: “Dear Miss Ellerbee, when I grow up, I want to do exactly what you do. Please do it better.”<sup>5</sup>

Little eyes are watching us; little feet are following us; little minds are weighing our words and actions. Our character is a river flowing past our children

hour by hour. One day our steps likely will be their steps, our thoughts will be their thoughts, and our words will be their words. “He walked in all the ways of . . . his father; he turned not aside from it, doing that which was right in the eyes of the Lord” (1 Kings 22:43).

Verbs are words of action. “Go and do thou likewise” (Luke 10:37).

### Footnotes:

In twelve separate chapters, especially the first seven.

Remember that Solomon was the child born to David and Bathsheba after their first child died (2 Samuel 12:24).

Quoting Disciplines of a Godly Man. R. Kent Hughes. Published by Good News Publishers, 2001. ISBN 1581342861, 9781581342864. Page 48.

Commentary on Proverbs. E-sword Version. Ellerbee, Linda (1986). And So It Goes: Adventures in Television. ISBN 0-399-13047-0.

Allen Webster is a Gospel Preacher, director of Polishing The Pulpit, editor of: *Glad Tidings of Good Things*, and *House to House/Heart to Heart*, and a part of the adjunct faculty of the Memphis School of Preaching.

## How Could He Sleep?

Article Selected

**I**mmerse yourself in this scene. Get the full picture in Acts 12. Peter was witnessing and personally experiencing the violent persecution that Herod Agrippa (“the king”) was bringing against Christians. Peter saw Herod kill his fellow apostle and friend, James, with the sword. He was seized by Herod’s henchmen, with plans to do the same to him as was done to James. Peter was arrested, thrown in prison, guarded by sixteen soldiers and bound with two chains between two soldiers. What would you be doing in that prison cell? Where would your emotions be? How uncomfortable, miserable, traumatic and faith-draining would all of that be?

The night before Herod was about to sentence him, do you know what Peter was doing? What would you be doing? The record tells us, “that night Peter was sleeping” (Acts 12:6). Could

you be sleeping? Peter trusted unequivocally in the presence of God, and knowing “the Lord is my helper,” he determined, “I will not fear,” for after all, “What can man do to me?” (Heb. 13:5-6). Do we trust in the Lord so much that we can sleep in our worst trials?



Upcoming Events

April 1—3: Challenging the Church hosted by Midtown. Please make plans to attend and bring a friend.

\*\*There will also be a potluck lunch on Sunday, April 3rd after morning worship. Please bring a potluck dish to share. There will be a 12:30pm afternoon service to follow.\*\*

Sunday, April 10: Youth Devo after evening services hosted by the Cammocks.

Friday, April 22: Family Fellowship night @ 6:30pm

Area Events (More info on the bulletin board in the hallway):

April 1-3: University church of Christ Spring Retreat

April 23: University church of Christ Spring Formal

Ladies—Please sign up to bring a side dish and dessert for the Saturday 4/2 luncheon for Challenging the church. The Sign up sheet is on the table in the foyer.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests

Nancy Dorries family members who are facing health issues.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Kin and Sandra Marie, Ann Pantel, Veronica Serenil, Clark Withers, Dee Gilpatrick, Faye Henderson.

Service Roster

Week of March 27, 2022

Sunday Morning

Announcements..... Kevin Sheeran  
Scripture Reading..... Will Burleson  
Song Leader ..... Rick Bass

Opening Prayer..... Doug Jobs  
Closing Prayer..... Steve Randle

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread..... Jesse Moser  
Cup..... Mike Atkinson  
Offering..... Doug Jobs  
Assist..... Dan Fielder  
Assist..... Fred Scherffius  
Assist..... Steve Randle

Sunday Evening

Announcements..... Kevin Sheeran  
Song Leader ..... Jesse Moser

Opening Prayer..... Doug Jobs  
Closing Prayer..... Isaac Jobs

Lord’s Supper & Offering..... Jesse Moser & Doug Jobs

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class..... Ron White  
Song Leader ..... Kirk FitzSimmons  
Devotional ..... Jesse Moser

Other

Usher..... Allen Clifton  
Prepare Communion ..... Bass Family

Congregational News

Birthdays

Parker DeDear..... Apr. 2  
Josiah Rodriguez..... Apr. 2

Food Helpers for the month of March - Team A.

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030.

## Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons  
Ronnie Scherffius  
Ron White

## Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism  
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence  
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

## Our Preacher

Ronnie Scherffius

## Weekly Reading

*“A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city; and their contentions are like the bars of a castle.”*  
Proverbs 18:19

## Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.  
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.  
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.  
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

## Attendance Records

Week of March 20, 2022

A.M. Bible Class.....58  
A.M. Worship.....82  
P.M. Worship.....40  
Wednesday Bible Class.....62  
Offering week of March 20, 2022.....\$3,412

## Supported Works

Mani Pagidipalli *India*  
John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*  
Anthony Scherffius *Southwest School of Bible Studies*

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