

A small child often has absolute faith and trust in his parents. Children often believe their parents can do anything. This boundless trust is a great delight for the parents. Parents feel greatly honored by it and it fills them with tender, protective love toward their children.

Jesus said in Matthew 18:3: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." I believe that God is telling us that come to him with childlike faith and humility. This delights God and he promises to bless it

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Hebrews 11:6

Ask God to give you that boundless faith! Turn away from your own selfish way and trust the Savior who came from the Father to seek and save the lost. Commit to honoring him and living his way. God will renew, grow and transform you. He will faithfully discipline you as one of his own beloved children.

These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon and can be picked up from the table at the back of the sanctuary and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>.

Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact studyeditor@southshorebaptist.com

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The Book of Proverbs

Godly Wisdom for Everyday Life

SSBC Proverbs Bible Study # 39

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passages that will be the basis of the sermon next week.

Topical Series: Wisdom Lived out in Community

This Week's Key Passage: Proverbs 23:22-25

Sermon Date: July 6, 2008

Children, honor your parents by seeking wisdom.

For the past several weeks we have been studying Proverbs, looking into how we live out wisdom in our community and family. This week's lesson is a continuation of the family theme: addressing children's attitudes toward their parents.

Americans are so committed to the value of equality that we sometimes find it hard to understand honor and respect. We tend to feel that showing respect for a person is undignified and demeaning. But the Bible urges us to take a different view.

In the ordering of the Ten Commandments, the directive to honor parents comes right after the four commands to honor God. It heads the list of commands about social life (Exodus 20:1-17; Deuteronomy 5:6-21). Honoring parents is a sacred duty because parents are God's agents to create us and bring us into the world.

Parents owe their children love, teaching, discipline and, while they grow, daily care. What do children owe to parents?

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the following charts to note your observations and any questions you have. The first verse below is the key verse for this study. Keeping this verse in mind, read each of the subsequent verses and note how each provides further insight into the meaning of this key verse.

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>Key Verse Proverbs 23:22-25 (NIV)</p> <p>23:22 Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.</p> <p>23:23 Buy the truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and understanding.</p> <p>23:24 The father of a righteous man has great joy; he who has a wise son delights in him.</p> <p>23:25 May your father and mother be glad; may she who gave you birth rejoice!</p> <hr/> <p>30:17 The eye that mocks a father, that scorns obedience to a mother, will be pecked out by the ravens of the valley, will be eaten by the vultures.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>10:1 The proverbs of Solomon: A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son grief to his mother.</p> <p>11:29 He who brings trouble on his family will inherit only wind, and the fool will be servant to the wise.</p> <p>13:1 A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a mocker does not listen to rebuke.</p> <p>19:26 He who robs his father and drives out his mother is a son who brings shame and disgrace.</p> <p>20:11 Even a child is known by his actions, by whether his conduct is pure and right.</p> <p>20:20 If a man curses his father or mother, his lamp will be snuffed out in pitch darkness.</p>	

2. Next, use this chart to interpret some key observations.

a. From the chart on the previous pages, select a few of your observations & questions that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and then interpret and apply each of them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it Say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

3. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- ◆ **Sins** to avoid
- ◆ **Promises** to believe
- ◆ **Examples** to follow (remember "SPECK")
- ◆ **Commands** to obey
- ◆ **Knowledge** to share

Don't just write things to write them — listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

4. 4. What does it mean to honor your parents? Consider I Timothy 5:1-16.
5. Proverbs 23:23 tells us to “buy truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and understanding.” How do we go about buying truth and from whom can we buy it? Consider Proverbs 4:7; 18:15; Isaiah 55:1-7 and Matthew 13:44.
6. What are some ways that righteous children bring joy to their parents? Consider Proverbs 23:24-25.
7. Can you remember any illustrations of parents getting joy from their righteous children and grief from unrighteous children in the stories recorded in Genesis of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac or Jacob?
8. Some of today's verses warn about the perils that await those who dishonors their parents. What are some forms these troubles might take?
9. Proverbs extols the advice of parents without distinguishing between wise parents and foolish ones? What are some reasons that parental advice tends to be trustworthy?.
10. How can you apply what you have learned in this study to your life this week?

Memory Verse

Proverbs 20:11

20:11 Even a child is known by his actions, by whether his conduct is pure and right.