

Grandparenting Sunday

“The Heart of the Matter”

“Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child;
The rod of discipline will remove it far from him.”

Proverbs 22:15 (NASB)

Introduction ... reflections of a grandparent ...

Proverbs 22:15 offers two insights, (the problem and the provision) a grandparent should know in ministering to their grandchild.

I. The Problem (Proverbs 22:15)

A. The Heart is the Very Center of Our Personal Life

1. It holds our true emotional, intellectual, and moral beliefs.
2. God sees the truth of who we are in our heart.
3. We are held accountable
4. The Bible tells us that the human heart is diseased (Jeremiah 17:9)
5. Jesus said the human heart is full of ugliness.
6. The heart of the child is filled with foolishness (Proverbs 12:16; 14:29; 20:3; 27:3; 12:15; 15:5; 10:8)

B. Foolishness is comprehensive and all-consuming in a child

II. The Provision (Proverbs 22:15b)

- A. God has established the parent as the one with the last word in the home (Ephesians 6:1-4)
- B. God expects the parent to assume His role in the early years of a child.
- C. God directs parents to use physical consequences to address foolishness in their child (Proverbs)
- D. God's agenda (and ours should be as well) is to win the heart of the child.

Conclusion: How to win the heart of your child?

1. Pray for personal parental wisdom (James 1:5)
2. Teach your child that he is loved regardless of what they do.
3. Be consistent in enforcing the God-given boundaries of discipline.
4. Respect your child as a person created in the image of God.
5. Be affectionate with your child.
6. Be wild and have fun with your children
7. Pray for your child.

Auburn Grace Community Church – September 3rd, 2023

Life Group Discussion Questions – September 3, 2023

Proverbs 22:15 “Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child;
The rod of discipline will remove it far from him.”

DISCOVER

1. In what ways do children arrive in this world pre-programmed? List some of the observable evidences. What is it that they are lacking in their hearts? (see Psalm 58:3)
2. Define and compare the world's views of foolishness with the Biblical outlook of it. How does the world view the “rod of discipline”? What is God's cure for foolishness?
3. Explain the difference between “discipline” and “chastising.” How are these connected?
4. In your understanding about types of parenting attitudes in the world, define the following parenting styles: “authoritarian,” “authoritative,” “permissive,” and “uninvolved.”
5. How is an earthly father's discipline different than our Heavenly Father's? Why is corporal punishment an appropriate Biblical premise? (see Jeremiah 29:11)

EXPLORE

1. Read Matthew 18:15-17. How can we glean discipling measures for our children from this passage? Why is it so important to measure the depth of instruction or discipline so that it would be proportionate to the seriousness of a child's non-compliance? What's at stake?
2. In what ways are parents as “God” to their children? Why is this understanding so critical in teaching a child in the way they should go? (see Proverbs 22:6 and Ephesians 6:1-4)
3. Read Hebrews 12:5-11. How might someone regard lightly the discipline of the Lord? Why would someone need to be encouraged to not grow weary when reproved by God (especially through others)?
4. Read Colossians 3:21. Why do you think this verse specifically commands fathers not to exasperate their children? What are some things that fathers typically do that exasperate or provoke their children? What are some of the predictable outcomes of exasperated children? Are these behaviors of them “losing heart”?

EXPERIENCE

1. Why do we tend to strive for outward conformity in our children but not the transformation of their hearts? What would the repercussions be in our country if spanking our children was outlawed?
2. Have you ever experienced that some discipline you received seemed to be excessively painful, but ultimately produced good results in you? Share an example with your group.
3. Have you seen something similar in any of your children/grandchildren? (as in #2 above) How did you fare as a parent/grandparent? (i.e. Did you rush to intervene in some way?)
4. What are some obstacles that can hinder a child from learning? What will you do with this new understanding?
5. What is the one thing that a child/grandchild must know in their hearts through the process of being disciplined? Did you know this when you experienced reproofing as a child?

PRAY

Pray... Father God, thank You that You love us enough to discipline us for our good. We pray that our hearts would be willing and trained to receive Your reproofs, for of all of Your disciplines are for our welfare, to prosper us and not to harm us. Thank You that You are a loving Father and are always there to mend our broken hearts. Thank You that You bring victory to every part of our lives...for Your glory. Amen.