

Frost Family Dedication

Proverbs 1:8 & 6:20

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Introduction: We come tonight for this special occasion, at the request of Ethan & Rachel, to dedicate Zechariah Baruch Frost to the Lord. Rather than calling this a “Baby Dedication,” I prefer to call it a “Family Dedication.” If the child is to be dedicated to the Lord it will only be possible by the dedication of the parents. Someone might point to Hannah’s dedication of Samuel to the Lord in I Samuel 1:11 & 27-28. But consider the difference that I see by comparison & contrast with that passage. Hannah does dedicate Samuel (even before his birth) to the Lord (:11), but she actually gives Samuel up the Lord physically as well to the care of Eli the priest. What are doing then here tonight? I suggest we are dedicating the parents, Ethan & Rachel, to the Lord as they dedicate themselves to the Lord to raise their son as one given to the Lord. I call your attention tonight to 2 parallel verses in Proverbs (1:8 & 6:20) as we consider: ”the instruction of thy father, the law of thy mother, & the result in thy life.”

- I. *“The instruction of thy father”* (1:8) [The context – Proverbs 1:7, *“The fear of the LORD...”*]
 - A. The declaration of the *“fear of the LORD”* (compare Proverbs 9:10).
 1. This involves *“instruction”* > see Proverbs 2:1-7.
 2. This involves indoctrination > see Proverbs 4:1-7.
 - B. The demonstration of the *“fear of the LORD”* (compare Proverbs 3:1-12).
 1. Consider the pattern of commands followed by promises.
 2. Ryrie writes: *“Wisdom not only delivers one from evil but promises certain rewards: longevity & prosperity (:1-2), favor with God & man (:3-4), guidance (:5-6), health & refreshment (:7-8), prosperity (:9-10), & a proper response to discipline (:11-12).”*
 - C. The dereliction (intentional abandonment) of the *“fear of the LORD”* (compare Proverbs 7:1-27).
 1. The warning of immorality (:1-25).
 2. The consequence of immorality (:26-27; 6:32-35).
- II. *“The law of thy mother”* (1:8; 6:20)
 - A. Her Scriptural witness:
 1. The reasons for a mother’s law > to catechize, command, & comfort.
 2. The results of a mother’s law > reaching the child’s heart, reaping the child’s health, & realizing the child’s honor.
 - B. Her specific warnings (see Proverbs 31:1-9):
 1. Warning against immorality (:3).
 2. Warning against intemperance [intoxication] (:4-7).
 3. Warning against indifference (:8-9).
- III. *“The result in thy life”*
 - A. May the Lord bless this child with parents that do their job:
 1. Diligently > Deuteronomy 6:7-9.
 2. Responsibly > Psalm 127:3 & Proverbs 22:6.
 3. Biblically > Ephesians 6:1-4.

B. May the Lord bless this child with parents that will:

1. Cherish him (with love & affection).
2. Chasten him (with loving discipline).
3. Catechize him (with godly instruction).

Conclusion: I close tonight with a brief look at Proverbs 22:6. I see in this verse the command for child-training (an exhortation – “*Train up...*”). I also see the commitment to child-training (an explanation – “*in the way he should go...*”). And there is here the commendation from child-training (an expectation – “*and when he is old, he will not depart from it*”). “Christian parents who consistently show godly standards & who regularly seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit will successfully achieve the goal of helping their children adopt godly standards as they mature” (Stevenson). Are you as parents willing to obey this command for child-training? Remember, it is an obligation, not an option. Will you as a mom & dad commit yourself to dedicate, regulate, & inculcate your child according to his way? Such a commitment requires not only that you exhort your child, but that you lead by example, & expect from him what God desires for him. By obeying this command, & making this commitment, you can claim this promise of commendation, “*& when he is old, he will not depart from it.*”

How about you tonight, Ethan & Rachel? Will you heed this challenge concerning child-training? Will you be faithful to follow through in order to claim this promise of God?