

Warnings, Encouragement, And Wisdom

Being that this is Father's Day. I decided to write something pertaining to fathers but what? Perhaps being an older father, I can say some words of wisdom to younger guys such as;

Your children are young only once so you might as well as enjoy them as they are. There will come a time when they will be independent. They may even want to have their own place, their own lives. So, you might as well try to influence them when they are still listening to you.

I don't know how old Solomon was when he wrote his Proverbs but many times, he addresses the audience as if they are his children. With words like "son" "youth" and "young man" he addresses what he is seeing. He does so with words of warning, words of instruction, with words of encouragement, and with the intent of providing wisdom.

Our children need warning, instruction, and encouragement. They need to be warned about the dangers of life and lives in sin. Proverbs 1 warns the "son" about sinners enticing him to shed blood in search for gain. It can be appealing to a young person do devious acts and not work for their living. He tells the "son" the end result of listening to sinners is death as they will pay for their evil with their own blood. There are numerous other warnings; not to be tempted by an adulterous woman, not to be lazy, not to forsake their father or mother. Our children are often subject to such temptations without thinking about the consequences. Older people know for every action there is a reaction, for every sin there will be consequences.

Children need to be instructed so as to have wisdom. Look at the number of times wisdom and knowledge are mentioned in the Proverbs.

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 2:6 For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding;

Solomon tells the young where to find wisdom and knowledge. It is in God and His word we will learn about Him and how to please Him.

Young people need to be taught about life, relationships, and about God. Too many children are growing up without a father which means they are not learning about the role of the man in the home, in the church, and in society. Every day our grandson is learning something new. His father is painting on a blank canvas and has the opportunity to leave strong godly qualities to his son. Solomon points out that wisdom and knowledge are available to those who will listen,

Children need words of encouragement because they will have failures and they need to know it is okay to fail while trying to do their best. Why are fathers warned about provoking their children to anger or wrath in Ephesians 6.4 and not mothers? Perhaps because fathers can be more demanding, because they are more likely to discipline in harsher ways, or they lack the patience of the mother. Women tend to be better at nurturing and taking care of the cuts and bruises while men tend to be unsympathetic to those things. Whatever the reason fathers can discourage their children by being too demanding. Everyone fails and everyone can learn from those failures. Children need to be taught that trying and failing is the way to grow.

Now that I have laid out what I think are some worthy goals of fathers the question becomes how? How are we, you and I, going to warn our children. How do we encourage, and teach them wisdom and knowledge? Good communication is part of being a good father. Part

of good communication is being present, and available to your children. Don't be an AWOL dad. Be there for the big and the small things. You never know when a good conversation, a question, or opportunity will arise. Study God's word with them.

Understand your importance as a role model to your children. Their concept of God's authority is going to depend on how you handle your authority and how you view God. If you take your religion seriously then they will understand its serious nature. Make sure they see you praying, worshiping, studying your Bible, and talk about God around them.

As time goes by you will have your failures as a father. Be sure to acknowledge yours to your children and promise to do better the next time. Let them know as God forgives so do you. Be happy for your successes.

Finally enjoy this time in your life for it will not last long. Young children grow up but as they grow so will you. - - Dennis Tucker