

Prov. 17:6, 21, 25: Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, & the glory of children is their fathers . . . ²¹ He who sires a fool gets himself sorrow, & the father of a fool has no joy . . . ²⁵ A foolish son is a grief to his father & bitterness to her who bore him.

Intro: What does God's wisdom look like in the family? This is what these proverbs address. So many of the greatest problems in our world are not due to government failures or systemic racism or lack of money or resources, but because of the breakdown of the family – specifically the Christian, God-fearing, Godly-wise family. (Yes, sin!)

Voddie Baucham (*Family Shepherds*): The family is the cornerstone of society. It has been said that as goes the family, so goes the world. It can also be said that as goes the father, so goes the family.

God's wisdom leads to wise, godly parents who have wise, godly children who honor their parents & grandparents.

1. Multiple Godly Generations Are An Honor To The Family And To God

Prov. 17:6: Grandchildren are the crown of the aged . . .

a. What is a crown?: A crown like a king or queen wears. The symbol of a crown is used various ways in the Bible. Crowns in the Bible represent authority & kingship, victory & triumph, honor & reward, righteousness & holiness, & a spiritual, godly legacy. In this case, it represents honor & reward & spiritual, godly legacy.

Children & grandchildren who follow Jesus are the honor, reward, & spiritual, godly legacy of the the aged parents & grandparents! Family is very important to God! Godly legacy is very important to God! **Mal. 2:15:** what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring.

John Kitchen: This proverb pictures the ideal relationship between three succeeding generations. The elderly man (Prov. 16:31) finds a "crown" of reward & honor in being surrounded by grandchildren (Gen. 48:11; Ps. 128:5-6). His life has mattered, it continues on, in a sense, through the succeeding generations. He has not only raised up godly sons & daughters, but he has raised them up to raise up the same kind of children. There is hope for the future!

b. Children & grandchildren are a blessing & gift from God: Ps. 127:3-5 Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

c. Children are a gift from God: Gen. 4:1: Adam knew Eve his wife, & she conceived & bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD."

- **Gen. 4:25:** Adam knew his wife again, & she bore a son & called his name Seth, for she said, "God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him."

- **Gen. 29:31:** When the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren.

- **Gen. 30:22:** Then God remembered Rachel, & God listened to her and opened her womb.

- **Ps. 113:9:** He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children. Praise the LORD!

d. It was a curse in the Old Covenant to be barren: Jer. 22:30: Thus says the LORD: "Write this man down as childless, a man who shall not succeed in his days, for none of his offspring shall succeed in sitting on the throne of David and ruling again in Judah."

e. There is hope for the barren woman: Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, Hannah, Zechariah & Elisabeth, Mary who bore Jesus! Are you barren! Take heart! You are in good company with the most famous families in all of redemptive history who had the most important children in all the world!

- **Isa. 54:1:** Sing, O barren one, who did not bear; break forth into singing & cry aloud, you who have not been in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than the children of her who is married," says the LORD.

f. The biologically barren can have spiritual children through evangelism & discipleship: Bruce Waltke: By contrast, in the New Covenant dispensation, Jesus Christ, who had no biological children, blessed the church to reproduce spiritually, not physically. (Great Commission, Matt. 28)
- **1 Cor. 4:15:** For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the Gospel.
- **1 Tim. 1:2:** To Timothy, my true child in the faith . . .
- **Phil. 4:1:** my brothers, whom I love & long for, my joy & crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.
- **1 Thess. 2:19-20:** For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? For you are our glory and joy.

g. We want to make disciples who make disciples: 2 Tim. 2:1-2: You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, ² & what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

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2. Fathers Are The Joy And Delight Of Their Children

Prov. 17:6: And the glory of children is their fathers.

The glory, the boast, the pride, the delight of wise, godly children is their father! He is the one who gave you life! He is the one who provides for you, protects you, loves you, & cares for you! He is the one who shows you what it means to love your mother & lay his life down for her daily! He is the one who brought you to church, who taught you God's Word in family worship, & gave you an example of love for God & His Word & His church! He is the one who spent time with you & played with you & taught you how to play baseball, ride a bike, or whatever hobby your dad taught you. He is the one who taught you what to look for in a godly man (Voddie story).

And if you didn't have a dad like that, God is your perfect Father! And there are men like that in this church who will be your godly father.

John Kitchen: While line one witnesses the pride running from the elderly to the youth, the second line pictures it flowing the opposite direction. Children find great honor in having an honorable father.

Jasmine Holmes (Voddie's daughter): Nothing can prepare you for losing your dad. & mourning a dad who's a public figure is like living in the twilight zone. My timeline is full of posts about people who loved him & were influenced by him - & I don't doubt that love as genuine. But watching others mourn so publicly is the oddest sensation. They saw him on a screen or in a pulpit - heard his voice on the radio. He tucked me in every night & told the best bedtime stories. They saw him as this bold, staunch defender of the Gospel. I saw him as socks with flip flops making gumbo on New Year's Eve. He influenced them from afar. He walked me down the aisle & used to mind meld with me to whoop everybody in a game of Taboo. He raised me. Day in. Day out. Messy & imperfect but so very steady & consistent. They lost someone they admired. I've lost part of me. They posted even before I did, because I couldn't make my limbs work - because I'd forgotten how to breathe. For me, it's not "all of our godly preachers are dying" or "I sure will miss his powerful voice for Jesus." For me? I just miss my daddy.

How does this Proverb happen? Supernaturally: Mal. 4:6: he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children & the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come & strike the land with a decree of utter destruction. **GOSPEL!**

3. What Kind Of Grandparents Are Crowned & What Kind Of Parents Are A Glory?

a. Fathers who provide, protect, & love: 1 Tim. 5:8: But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, & especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith & is worse than an unbeliever.

- **2 Cor. 12:14:** I will not be a burden, for I seek not what is yours but you. For children are not obligated to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.

- **Prov. 13:22:** A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children . . .

b. Fathers who love their wives as Christ loves the church: Eph. 5:25-28: Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church & gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy & without blemish. ²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

c. Fathers who lead in the Word of God & prayer: Ps. 78:5-8: He established a testimony in Jacob & appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, ⁶ that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, & arise & tell them to their children, ⁷ so that they should set their hope in God & not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments; ⁸ & that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn & rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God.

- **Eph. 6:4:** Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord

- **Spurgeon:** To neglect the instruction of our offspring is worse than brutish. Family religion is necessary for the nation, for the family itself, & for the church of God . . . Would that parents would awaken to a sense of the importance of this matter.

d. Fathers who spend time with you, teach you, & enjoy God & life with you: Do things together, enjoy life together, work together, delight in God together, play together (this is what love looks like). **(Homeschool)**

e. Fathers who discipline you: Prov. 13:24: Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.

- **Prov. 22:6:** Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

- **Eric Lane:** A man who lived to see his grandchildren was doubly blessed – with long life & with progeny, both of which were marks of God's approval: **Ps. 91:16:** With long life I will satisfy him & show him my salvation.

- **John Kitchen:** True, commandment requires children to honor their father & mother (Exod. 20:12), but it is also incumbent upon the father to give his children reason to do so. What greater earthly incentive could there be to live honorably as a man, than to have your children be proud of you & long to model your character?

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4. What Kind Of Grandchildren Are A Crown & What Kind Of Children Glory In Their Parents?

a. Grandchildren & children who honor & obey their parents: Exod. 20:12: Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

- **Eph. 6:1-3:** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father & mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you & that you may live long in the land."

- **Col. 3:20-21:** Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

b. Grandchildren & children who trust in Jesus: They are born again: Jn. 1:12-13: But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

- **John Kitchen:** Proverbs is not shy about unveiling the opposite kind of family relationships. The kind of relationships pictured in this proverb are expected, but they will not be reality without God's supernatural intervention & enabling. Lord, make me a man who is worthy of the admiration & honor of my children!

c. Grandchildren & children who obey God & grow in wisdom: Seeking to obey 1st & 2nd greatest commands; Seeking to obey all that Jesus has commanded.

d. Grandchildren & children who follow their grandparents/parents as they follow Christ: Provide (work!); protect; love; (if they have a family, are doing what their parents did); If married, love their wives; Lead in the

Word of God & prayer; Spend time together, teach, enjoy God; discipline their children.

e. Grandchildren & children who are not like Prov. 17:21, 25: He who sires a fool gets himself sorrow, & the father of a fool has no joy . . . ²⁵ A foolish son is a grief to his father & bitterness to her who bore him.

- **On V. 21: John Kitchen:** The first line uses [the word for fool] which describes the thickheaded “dimwit”. The second line uses the more extreme word, “nabal”. It is used in Proverbs only in verse 17:7 & 30:22. The “nabal” is completely godless & beyond reach of wisdom. He is established in his folly & fixed in his viewpoint. He even denies that there is a God to whom he must answer (Ps. 14:1). Abigail’s husband, Nabal, is the poster child for such folly (1 Sam. 25:25).

- **On V. 25: John Kitchen:** Note that which is attributed to the father & that which is attributed to the mother in regards to response to the child. The father is provoked to anger; the mother experiences “bitterness.” The word is used only here, but is akin to that found in Proverbs 14:10: “The heart knows its own bitterness, & a stranger does not share its joy.” Truly, no one but a mother can understand the grief a wayward child causes! The authority of the father is defied; thus, there is provocation to anger. The tender care of the mother is tossed aside; there is bitter sorrow in her soul . . . A child holds in his hands the power to inflict untold pain or joy upon his parents. The whole person is wrapped up in loving a child.

Applications: Foolish Sons: 1) You are killing your parents! Do you see your sin?! – the sorrow, the grief, the pain, the joylessness, & the bitterness you are causing! (Like Cain, like Esau, like Eli’s sons, like Absalom)

2) Repent & believe the Gospel! You must be born again!

3) Obey God & obey your parents – honor them!

- **Parents Of Foolish Sons:** 1) Pray; 2) Teach the Gospel/Word of God; 3) Hold them accountable 4) Start young!

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Jesus: Jesus is the crown & glory of His Father (this is my beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased!). Jesus is the perfect Son! The obedient Son! The greatest, wisest, most loving, most God-glorifying Son who ever was! Yet, on that cross, Jesus was counted as the foolish son – as the worst fool of a son who had ever lived – so that you, in all of your foolishness & sin, might be saved! **Jesus honored His mother to the end: Jn. 19:25-27:** standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother & his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, & Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother & the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" & from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

- **Isa. 9:6:** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; & the government shall be upon his shoulder, & his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

- **Lk. 8:48:** Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.

- Like a perfect father, Jesus provides, protects, & loves like no other! Jesus is the perfect Husband! Jesus is our Prophet, Priest, & King!

- Jesus delights to spend time with us & wants us to spend time with Him! Jesus enjoys His Father like no other & invites us into that enjoyment! Jesus disciplines us when we sin because He loves us so much!

Christ Jesus Like A Father Came
There’s No One Like Him, None The Same
Provides, Protects, And Loves! Exclaim!
Gentle And Lowly, Strong Not Tame
He Gave Himself To Bear Our Shame
Under God’s Wrath He’s Set Aflame
He Died And Rose, Death Overcame

By Faith Alone His Sons Became
Now Christ-likeness Is Our Aim
God The Father – Praise His Name!
God The Son – We Spread His Fame!
God The Spirit – Hearts Inflame!
Our Triune God – Give All Acclaim
Our Crown, Our Glory – He’s Our Aim!