

Teach Your Children that You Love Them¹

Proverbs 15:17

PROPOSITION: Parents have the obligation to show their children that they love them.

INTRODUCTION:

1. The book of Proverbs speaks clearly on parenting, which involves both father and mother (6:20).
2. The ideal home is not necessarily one filled with wealth, but the home where parents and children show their love for each other (Prov. 15:17).

DISCUSSION:

I. Show your children you love them by *proper* discipline.

- A. One does not love by allowing just any thing (cf. 1 Cor. 13:6).
- B. Consider good priest Eli as a father (1 Sam. 2:12).
- C. The proverbs support the idea that discipline shows love (Prov. 3:11, 12; 22:15; 23:13, 14).
- D. According to Proverbs, parental punishment serves at least five purposes:
 1. To remove foolishness (Prov. 22:15)
 2. To rescue from judgment (Prov. 23:14)
 3. To impart wisdom (Prov. 29:15)
 4. To relieve anxiety (Prov. 29:17)
 5. To reveal parental concern for the child (Prov. 3:12)
- E. Some discipline may involve only words (Prov. 17:10; 10:13).
- F. Proverbs suggests several teaching techniques for parents:²
 1. Specific instructions must be given (Prov. 12:8).
 2. Provide clear-cut choices regarding situations (Prov. 1:32, 33).
 3. Reveal truth of past experiences (Prov. 26:3).
 4. Admonish with reason (Prov. 22:17-19).
 5. Encourage children to use logic (Prov. 6:27).
 6. Expect the child's attention to instructions (Prov. 4:1, 2).
 7. Explain life's lessons (Prov. 7:6-23).
 8. Stress cause-and-effect to children (Prov. 1:19).

II. Show your children you love them by spending time with them.

- A. The parent who is too busy to spend time with his/her children is too busy!
- B. When a parent is too busy to be with his children, he is saying he loves his work or play more.
- C. No wonder so many young people grow up frustrated and confused.
- D. It seem that the problem Samuel had in raising his sons was a failure to spend adequate time with them (cf. 1 Sam. 7:15-17; 8:1-3).

III. Show your children you love them by encouraging them.

- A. When we love our children, we want to build them up.
- B. Words of encouragement show that we love them even when they have failed.
- C. "...like a father with his children, we exhorted each of you and encouraged you..." (1 Thes. 2:11).
- D. We ought to encourage our children to walk worthy of the Lord, showing our true love for them.

¹ Main points from "According to the Bible, Parents Should Show Their Children that They Truly Love Them" by Tim Shoemaker in *The Spiritual Sword*, Vol. 15, No. 4, July 1984, pp. 25-27.

² From John Kachelman, Jr., "Important Passages on the Family – Proverbs."