

Sermon Discussion

2 August 2020

Read Proverbs 22:6 together.

Dig Deeper

“Train up” means to dedicate the child to God (1 Samuel 1:27-28; Ephesians 6:4), so this proverb raises the question of the parent’s own commitment. The parent’s dedication is sustained by remembering that the Lord himself is committed to that family.

This proverb is not a sure formula for success in child rearing; it is an assurance of how profound a parent’s influence can be- though that influence might be rejected. The Proverbs provide reliable guidance but they do not address every contingency encountered in a sinful world. Wise parents invest in a child during the crucial, early years, because such care typically has godly results. But even the best parenting can result in a prodigal and a prideful son (Luke 15:11-32).

Ultimately, the way a child “should go” (Prov. 22:6) is not an educational or career choice but an eternal choice to live for God. Such a “way” is profoundly influenced by parents’ actions, but is ultimately determined by the child’s heart.

1. Why is it important to understand that the book of Proverbs contains statements on the way that things should work and not promises for the way that things will always work here and now?
2. What is the relationship between training (Proverbs 22:6) and discipline (Proverbs 22:15)? Why are both training and discipline important for both parents and disciplers?
3. Why is it common for people to either be prideful or shameful when they read Proverbs 22:6? How does the Gospel keep us from feeling both pride and shame?
4. For those without children or who have grown children, how does the “train up” part of this Proverb apply to you?
5. For those that have older kids, what are the ways that your parenting relationships have changed over the years?
6. What does it mean to parent with eternity in mind? Does this change the way we think about parenting or discipleship?
7. Why is it important to remember that our children’s greatest problem is sin, and their greatest need is Jesus? How does that shape the way we train and discipline our children?

Application & Prayer

- This series is designed to encourage us to spend time reading the Bible. How has this sermon encouraged you to spend more time in the Bible? What one thing can you do differently this week?
- As a parent, caregiver, relation, or mentor, pray that God would actively shape the way of those entrusted to us. Pray that your life reflects the importance and truth of the Gospel.
- Pray that our church community (its leaders, members, and attenders) would follow God's command to train up the children and young people we have. Ask the Lord to help us to be intentional and purposeful with them.