

WCBC "FATHER'S DAY" SUNDAY, JUNE 17, 2018

TOPIC: *Characteristics Of A Godly Father!*

TEXT: I Corinthians 4:14-21

INTRO: Fathers Get Lesser Recognition & Importance Than Mothers!

I. LOVES HIS CHILDREN: vv. 14, 17a

Note: In verse 14, the word "dear" is the Greek word, "agapetos," meaning, "beloved."

1. Unconditionally - 5:1
 - Mary Ann!
2. Gently - v.21b

II. SETS A GOOD EXAMPLE TO HIS CHILDREN: v.16

Note: The Apostle Paul lived an exemplary life before other believers!

"Fathers, our children watch us. And be reminded that our actions are rather caught than taught!"

III. TEACHES HIS CHILDREN: v.17b

1. To live godly - v.17b cf. I Thessalonians 2:8-12
2. To live godly consistently - "*which agrees...*"

IV. CAUTIONS HIS CHILDREN: v.14

1. Not to be arrogant and proud - v.18; 5:2a
2. Not to commit immorality - 5:1

V. DISCIPLINES HIS CHILDREN: v.21b

Note: Discipline should be corrective, and not punitive!
- Proverbs 22:15

Two Things To Note Re Discipline:

1. The act in question should be explained - 5:1
2. Discipline should be enforced! 5:2b

CONCLUSION: Hillary Clinton!

COMFORT TO PARENTS (ESPECIALLY TO FATHERS):

A MISCONCEPTION OF PROVERBS 22:6!

Some Christian parents are deeply burdened with guilt because they have children who have rejected

their values or their faith. Often this is because they accept Proverbs 22:6 as an absolute promise. But remember that the book of Proverbs is a collection of "wisdom sayings" which are not to be confused with the promises of God. Proverbs are principles that are true, but not absolute. Take, for example, Proverbs 15:1. It says that "*a gentle answer turns away rage...*" But what if your gentle answer is met with hostility? That doesn't make the proverb any less true. Most of the time, a gentle answer DOES turn away rage, but we have no control over the response we get from others. The same holds true for Proverbs 22:6. While it is true that children who are taught to choose the right path will be more likely to do so than those who aren't, Proverbs also says that it's common for children to despise their parents (15:20) and mock them (30:17). Indeed, children raised in a godly home may even be so heartless as to run through their parents' money (28:24)! Proverbs presents a very realistic view of life - not a storybook ideal.

If we follow the advice of Proverbs 22:6, there is a good probability that our children will either remain true to what they have been taught, or return to it after they have matured and realize that their parents weren't so stupid after all. That, however, is only a PROBABILITY. It is NOT A PROMISE! Proverbs 22:6 EMPHASIZES WHAT PARENTS SHOULD DO. That is all we have control over. If we have done our best to instill faith and values in our children, then we have done our best for God. The rest is up to our kids and up to God. Regardless of how our kids turn out, we shouldn't take more credit than we deserve - good or bad. But remember - GOD ISN'T FINISHED WITH OUR KIDS YET. HE'S NOT EVEN FINISHED WITH US! - Wayne Rice

Happy Father's Day To All!

