**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | How to Be the Father of a Wise Child |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Proverbs 1:1-5, 20-22 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1932 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. There are many children who will be shipwrecked in life because of the pride and arrogance of their fathers.
      1. These fathers will not do what they ought to do in order to guide those children to a safe and secure haven.
   2. Provers 1:1-5, 20-22
   3. In Proverbs 1:22, we see the evolution of a fool.
      1. Children begin as simple.
         1. The word “simple” means “open,” “naive.”
            1. The Hebrew word for “simple” is “open.”
         2. The word “simple” has nothing to do with intellectual ability.
         3. A simple child may grow up to be a doctor, a lawyer, an architect, a politician, or even a minister.
      2. The next step mentioned in this verse is that of the scorner.
         1. The scorner is different from the simple.
            1. The simple is more or less innocent.
         2. A scorner is a smart-aleck, a cynic.
      3. The next step is the fool.
         1. Another word for “fool” is “rebel” or “arrogant” or “wicked.”
         2. The word “fool” does not have the idea that a person is lacking in mental abilities.
            1. This word has a moral base.
            2. It means “without any ability to discern.”
   4. We are in serious trouble in America.
      1. In 1962, prayer in public schools was declared unconstitutional.
      2. In 1963, Bible reading in public schools was declared unconstitutional.
      3. In 1973, the killing of pre-born children was declared to be a right guaranteed by the Constitution.
      4. In 1980, it was deemed to be illegal to post the Ten Commandments on school walls.
      5. Secular humanists have targeted public education to be the Sunday schools for their humanistic philosophy.
         1. In so doing, they have purged any vestige of Christian influence from our schools.
      6. Today in our schools:
         1. Prayer is out, and policemen are in.
         2. Bibles are out, and values clarification is in.
         3. The Ten Commandments are out; and rape, armed robbery, gang warfare, and murder are in.
         4. Creationism is out, and evolution is in.
         5. Corporal punishment is out, and disrespect and rebellion are in.
         6. Abstinence is out, and abortion is in.
         7. Learning is out, and social engineering is in.
         8. History is out, and revisionism is in.
   5. The problem is primarily with arrogant fathers who fail to accept their responsibility.
   6. Today’s message will show dads how not to be the father of a fool, but instead, how to be the father of a wise child.
2. the simple (proverbs 1:22)
   1. Proverbs 1:22
   2. The simple loves simplicity.
      1. He enjoys being a child.
      2. He enjoys the carefree life and doesn’t like any serious thoughts.
   3. The simple lacks understanding.
      1. Proverbs 9:1-4
         1. Wisdom has prepared a banquet of learning, knowledge and truth, and has invited the simple to the table.
      2. He may one day be a lawyer or a banker or a surgeon, but he lacks spiritual wisdom and spiritual understanding.
         1. He just doesn’t know.
   4. The simple is easily led into error.
      1. Proverbs 14:15
         1. He is easily led.
      2. This doesn’t mean that he doesn’t believe something.
         1. He will believe anything.
         2. He is an easy target for marketers, false religions and sinful friends.
      3. He is easily led into error because he’s so open.
   5. A child doesn’t look forward or plan for the future; therefore, he’s living in danger.
      1. Proverbs 14:15
      2. Proverbs 22:3
         1. A person who is wise and prudent sees the danger.
         2. But the simple child thinks that he is indestructible.
            1. He never thinks about the future and is like an animal led to slaughter.
      3. He has no idea about danger.
3. the scorner (proverbs 1:22)
   1. The next step after a person is naïve is that he becomes (if he is not taught by his parents) a smart-aleck.
   2. Proverbs 1:22
   3. He delights in his scorning.
      1. He enjoys being a smart-aleck.
   4. He defies instruction.
      1. Proverbs 13:1
      2. A scorner will not listen.
   5. He despises the good and the godly.
      1. Proverbs 15:12
      2. A scorner will not go to his father or teacher or youth pastor and ask for help.
      3. Rebuke a scorner, and he will insult you.
         1. Proverbs 9:7-8
   6. He is destined for destruction.
      1. He was once simple, but he became a scorner.
      2. Proverbs 13:1, 13
      3. He won’t listen and will laugh at you.
      4. If a scorner is not reclaimed, he will be lost for eternity.
   7. The scorner is very hard to reach, but there is some hope for the scorner.
4. the fool (Proverbs 1:22)
   1. Proverbs 1:22
      1. The scorner is insolent, but the fools is immovable.
   2. The fool rejects wisdom.
      1. He hates wisdom.
      2. Proverbs 15:14
         1. He loves foolishness.
   3. He ridicules righteousness.
      1. Proverbs 14:9
      2. This is why there are sitcoms on television that laugh at drunkenness, adultery, and perversion.
      3. Fools mock at sin.
   4. He rejoices in iniquity.
      1. Proverbs 15:20-21
      2. He rejoices in wickedness.
      3. His moral sense has been so perverted that he thinks good is evil and evil is good.
         1. Isaiah 5:20
   5. The fool will die and go to Hell.
      1. Proverbs 17:10
      2. His heart is hardened, his conscience is seared, and his mind is defiled.
   6. If he were a wise child, he could still go wrong.
      1. But if he went wrong and God chastised him, he would then repent.
         1. Hebrews 12:6
      2. King David sinned terribly, but he was a wise man in spite of his sin.
         1. When God chastised him, he repented and cried out to God for mercy.
      3. In contrast, Pharaoh was a fool.
         1. When God judged Pharaoh, he just hardened his heart more and more.
   7. Little children start out as simple.
      1. If we’re not careful, society will turn a child into a smart-aleck.
      2. If he is not rescued when he becomes a smart-aleck and a scorner, then he will become a fool and will be eternally lost.
   8. There are four things that parents can do to not raise a fool:
      1. Expound truth.
         1. Proverbs 1:1-4
         2. Saturate your children in the book of Proverbs.
         3. Emblazon the Ten Commandments into children’s consciousness.
         4. Teach them the Beatitudes.
         5. The battle is for the mind.
            1. As a child thinks, so is he.
         6. The major teacher in the home is the father.
            1. Deuteronomy 5-6

God gave the Ten Commandments in chapter 5 and then instructed fathers to teach these commandments to their children so that their families will survive and their homes will endure.

* + 1. Expose sin.
       1. The simple will learn by example.
       2. Proverbs 19:25
          1. A child who is carefree, careless and simple, needs to see the scorner punished.
          2. He needs to see sin exposed and the fruit of sin.
       3. Proverbs 21:11
          1. The worst thing that could happen to your child is for him or her to live in such a sinful society as we have today and, yet, not see the repercussions of sin.

For instance, children watch immorality on television, but they don’t see the aftermath it causes, such as a broken home.

* + - 1. Society today shrinks from punishing criminals; therefore, we are producing more criminals.
         1. Ecclesiastes 8:11
         2. When children see criminals back on the street shortly after an arrest, then they see no connection between crime and punishment.
    1. Expel scorners.
       1. Proverbs 13:20
       2. Proverbs 22:10
       3. Don’t let your children hang around with scorners and fools.
          1. Help them select their friends.

This means that you may have to be firm and cast out the scorner.

* + - * 1. If your child is naïve and simple, then he or she will be susceptible to peer pressure.

Peer pressure doesn’t have to be bad.

Peer pressure can be good if the peers are good.

All the more reason that you need to surround your children with the right friends.

All the more reason to make your home the headquarters for happiness and invite your children’s friends into your home.

When your children and their friends spend time at your home, you can then monitor those friends.

If there is a scorner or a fool in the bunch, then cast them out.

* + - * 1. Have people in your home who know and love God and are people of high character.

Allow your children to interact with them and be present around the dinner table so that they can enjoy and participate in the conversation.

* + 1. Express love.
       1. Proverbs 3:12
          1. Love your children and delight in them.
       2. Be positive, and don’t ever be negative.
          1. Words can hurt your children.
       3. Learn to listen to them.
          1. Try to see life from their point of view.
       4. Be gentle.
          1. There is one characteristic that is found in dads whose children love and follow them, and that is gentleness.
          2. Children want a dad who is gentle.
       5. Be transparent.
          1. Let your children know of your fears, your joys, your disappointments, your failures and your goals.
          2. They already know you’re not perfect.

They don’t want you to be a phony.

* + - 1. Be available.
         1. Make it a priority to be available to your children.

1. CONCLUSION
   1. No one has what it takes to be the kind of parent we ought to be.
      1. This is one of the many reasons why we need Jesus.
   2. The Christian life is not difficult; it’s impossible.
      1. There is only one who can do it, and that is Jesus.
      2. But He will do it in us and through us if we will let Him.
   3. The best thing you can do for your children is to love God with all of your heart.
   4. Give your heart to Jesus Christ today.
   5. Pray to Him and ask Him to come into your life.
   6. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16