

Parents & Children**Proverbs****Chapter 1**

- ⁸ Listen, my son, to your father's instruction
and do not forsake your mother's teaching.
⁹ They are a garland to grace your head
and a chain to adorn your neck.

Chapter 10

- ¹ A wise son brings joy to his father,
but a foolish son brings grief to his mother.

Chapter 13

- ¹ A wise son heeds his father's instruction,
but a mocker does not respond to rebukes.

Chapter 15

- ⁵ A fool spurns a parent's discipline,
but whoever heeds correction shows prudence.
²⁰ A wise son brings joy to his father,
but a foolish man despises his mother.

Chapter 17

- ⁶ Children's children are a crown to the aged,
and parents are the pride of their children.

- ²¹ To have a fool for a child brings grief;
there is no joy for the parent of a godless fool.

- ²⁵ A foolish son brings grief to his father
and bitterness to the mother who bore him.

Chapter 19

- ¹⁸ Discipline your children, for in that there is hope;
do not be a willing party to their death.

- ²⁶ Whoever robs their father and drives out their mother
is a child who brings shame and disgrace.

Chapter 20

²⁰ If someone curses their father or mother,
their lamp will be snuffed out in pitch darkness.

Chapter 22

⁶ Start children off on the way they should go,
and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

Chapter 23

¹³ Do not withhold discipline from a child;
if you punish them with the rod, they will not die.

¹⁴ Punish them with the rod
and save them from death.

²² Listen to your father, who gave you life,
and do not despise your mother when she is old.

²³ Buy the truth and do not sell it—
wisdom, instruction and insight as well.

²⁴ The father of a righteous child has great joy;
a man who fathers a wise son rejoices in him.

²⁵ May your father and mother rejoice;
may she who gave you birth be joyful!

Chapter 29

¹⁵ A rod and a reprimand impart wisdom,
but a child left undisciplined disgraces its mother.

¹⁷ Discipline your children, and they will give you peace;
they will bring you the delights you desire.

Parents and Children in the Proverbs

Generations

There are two perspectives from which we approach this topic.
In fact, they are two sides of the same coin.

The first one is universal.

We are all children.

Not in age, but we are the child of parents.

How they treated us, taught us,

cared for us, disciplined us. modelled life for us
has everything to do with who we are today.

The second is specific to those who have themselves become parents.

Those who have children find the tables turned.

They have become what they may have once looked up to and become
disillusioned by and may still love or hate or both.

Our conversation about parents and children will always have this
dual perspective in mind.

There is one verse in particular that looks
both backwards and forward at generations is in chapter 17.

⁶ Children's children are a crown to the aged,
and parents are the pride of their children.

The wisdom of this rare passage is that it isn't just a one way street.
It is about how generations bless one another both forwards and backwards.
As children, we all want to be proud of our parents.
As parents we want to be proud of our children and grandchildren.
This verse epitomizes the real goal of family.
That parents and children, generations can have mutual respect and love.

Roles

Fathers - Instruction, identity, discipleship and discipline. Love Wife.

Mothers - Nurture and Care. Love Husband.

Children - Before the age of 12 they live by following and obeying.

Parenting Demands Discipline

Parenting is about the parent

No parent is told that parenting is about themselves.

But it is.

Understanding your role, your anxieties helps.

Our parenting style is affected by our own insecurity.

A person lacking confidence may simply bully their children.

A person lacking in love may coddle them like a pet.

Very few people have been taught how to parent.

We just become parents and that's it.

We copy our own parents.

We go into our default modes of coping.

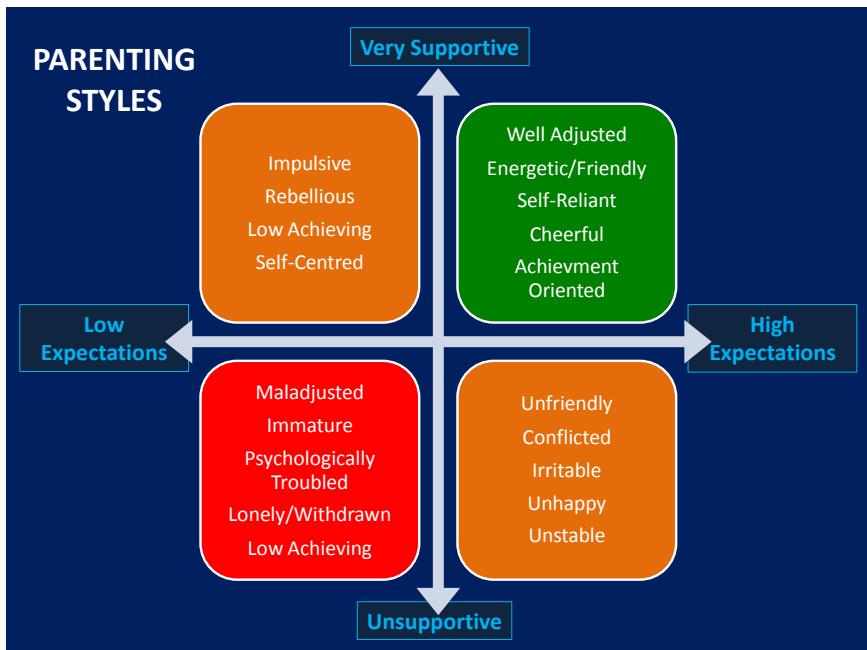
Think about your own parent.

How did they parent you?

Even more importantly, why did they parent you that way?

How has that affected you?

The Balance of Support & Expectation



The Perfect Family

There is a reason why Jesus teaches us to call God "Abba," Father.

He is teaching us that we need to be re-parented.

When A church fails to reflect the heart of God as his family

It not only fails but reveals dysfunction

It misrepresents God.

It blasphemes.

In John 1 there is the verse - to those who believe and receive

He gives the right to be called the children of God.

The entire Christian life is about recovering our identities.

God is our parent.

We are his children.

There is meant to be a family resemblance.

Adapt Illustration: Where is God's Perfection?

In Brooklyn, New York, Chush is a school that caters to learning disabled children. Some children remain in Chush for their entire school career, while others can be mainstreamed into conventional schools. At a Chush fund-raising dinner, the father of a Chush child delivered a speech that would never be forgotten by all who attended.

After extolling the school and its dedicated staff, he cried out, "Where is the perfection in my son Shaya? Everything God does is done with perfection. But my child cannot understand things as other children do. My child cannot remember facts and figures as other children do. Where is God's perfection?"

The audience was shocked by the question, pained by the father's anguish and stilled by the piercing query. "I believe," the father answered, "that when God brings a child like this into the world, the perfection that he seeks is in the way people react to this child."

He then told the following story about his son Shaya: One afternoon Shaya and his father walked past a park where some boys Shaya knew were playing baseball. Shaya asked, "Do you think they will let me play?" Shaya's father knew that his son was not at all athletic and that most boys would not want him on their team. But Shaya's father understood that if his son was chosen to play it would give him a comfortable sense of belonging.

Shaya's father approached one of the boys in the field and asked if Shaya could play. The boy looked around for guidance from his teammates. Getting none, he took matters into his own hands and said "We are losing by six runs and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we'll try to put him up to bat in the ninth inning." Shaya's father was ecstatic as Shaya smiled broadly.

Shaya was told to put on a glove and go out to play short center field. In the bottom of the eighth inning, Shaya's team scored a few runs but was still behind by three. In the bottom of the ninth inning, Shaya's team scored again and now with two outs and the bases loaded with the potential winning run on base, Shaya was scheduled to be up.

Would the team actually let Shaya bat at this juncture and give away their chance to win the game? Surprisingly, Shaya was given the bat. Everyone knew that it was all but impossible because Shaya didn't even know how to hold the bat properly, let alone hit with it. However as Shaya stepped up to the plate, the pitcher moved a few steps to lob the ball in softly so Shaya should at least be able to make contact. The first pitch came in and Shaya swung clumsily and missed. One of Shaya's teammates came up to Shaya and together they held the bat and faced the pitcher waiting for the next pitch.

The pitcher again took a few steps forward to toss the ball softly toward Shaya. As the pitch came in, Shaya and his teammate swung at the bat and together they hit a slow ground ball to the pitcher. The pitcher picked up the soft grounder and could easily have thrown the ball to the first baseman.

Shaya would have been out and that could have ended the game. Instead, the pitcher took the ball and threw it on a high arc to right field, far beyond reach of the first baseman.

Everyone started yelling, "Shaya, run to first. Run to first." Never in his life had Shaya run to first. He scampered down the baseline wide-eyed and startled. By the time he reached first base, the right fielder had the ball. He could have thrown the ball to the second baseman who would tag out Shaya, who was still running. But the right fielder understood what the pitcher's intentions were, so he threw the ball high and far over the third baseman's head. Everyone yelled, "Run to second, run to second."

Shaya ran toward second base as the runners ahead of him deliriously circled the bases toward home. As Shaya reached second base, the opposing short stop ran to him, turned him in the direction of third base and shouted, "Run to third." As Shaya rounded third, the boys from both teams ran behind him screaming, "Shaya run home." Shaya ran home, stepped on home plate, and all 18 boys lifted him on their shoulders and made him the hero, as he had just hit a "grand slam" and won the game for his team.

"That day," said the father softly with tears now rolling down his face, "those 18 boys reached their level of God's perfection."

This church as God's Family is meant to reflect His perfection.

Reflection

Reflect upon how you were raised by your father.

Reflect on your relationships with your mother.

Think about the kind of child you were.

What dimensions were there that still stick in your heart?

What remains unresolved?

What are you thankful for?

What do you regret or wish never happened?

How have you experienced God's perfection?