

**Children, Honor Your Parents**  
**Proverbs 10:1, et al**  
**December 6, 2015**

**Introduction 1**

**Proverbs 10:1**

*The proverbs of Solomon:*

After spending several months in **Proverbs 1-9**, which are Hebrew poems, we finally come to the proverbs of Proverbs. The proverbs are sayings that are brief, mostly two lines, sometimes more, to teach the truth. Solomon's proverbs are usually brief statements of wisdom, created to be thought-provoking and memorable. He told us why we need to hear wisdom's instruction in **chapters 1-9**. **Chapters 10-29** are wisdom's teaching. Solomon seems to order his proverbs from simple teachings to more complex thoughts as the chapters progress. There is really no structure to them. We might think it as a pile of beautiful, cut precious stones. We take one proverb (jewel) at a time to study and ponder its meaning and application. What we will do in this lesson is to take clusters of proverbs of the same topic or theme throughout Proverbs and study them at once

We need to remember that the overall theme of Proverbs is the fear of YHWH.

**Proverbs 1:7**

*The fear of YHWH is the beginning of knowledge,  
but fools despise wisdom and discipline.*

**Proverbs 9:10**

*The fear of YHWH is the beginning of wisdom,  
and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*

**Proverbs 31:30**

*Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;  
but a woman who fears YHWH is to be praised.*

We have to keep in mind every time we go through those verses. The first proverb Solomon gives us is the wise and foolish sons.

**Introduction 2**

God has established the family as the most basic building block of society. He established that the fathers are the head of the family, and mothers as the helpmeet to the fathers. Children are under the authority of both parents. God expects children to obey and honor their parents.

**Exodus 20:12** *Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land YHWH your God is giving you.*

**Deuteronomy 5:16** *Honor your father and your mother, as YHWH your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land YHWH your God is giving you.*

Paul says that this command was the first command with a promise

**Ephesians 6:1-3** *Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother" —which is the first commandment with a promise— 3 "that it may go well with you and that*

*you may enjoy long life on the earth."*

What does it mean for the children to honor their parents? Moses says that this mean to revere them, respect them.

**Leviticus 19:3** *Each of you must respect his mother and father, and you must observe My Sabbaths. I am YHWH your God.*

When children obey and honor their parents, they will be blessed. However, if they dishonor their parents, then they will be cursed

**Deuteronomy 27:16** *Cursed is the man who dishonors his father or his mother. Then all the people shall say, "Amen!"*

**Proverbs 10:1** is the exposition of the Law. Solomon brings a much more personal, in-depth application of the Law. Here Solomon talks about fathers and mothers, and we can read them as interchangeable. For Solomon, fathers and mothers are one unit. We also need to assume that Solomon is addressing wise parents which we get from **1:8**. It also applies to daughters as well.

## I. The Clusters

### **Proverbs 10:1**

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

| <b>Wise Son</b>   | <b>Foolish Son</b>   |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Proverbs 15:20a</b><br/><i>A wise son brings joy to his father,</i></p> <p><b>Proverbs 23:15-16</b><br/><i>15 My son, if your heart is wise,<br/>then my heart will be glad;<br/>16 my inmost being will rejoice<br/>when your lips speak what is right.</i></p> <p><b>Proverbs 23:24-25</b><br/><i>24 The father of a righteous man has great joy;<br/>he who has a wise son delights in him.<br/>25 May your father and mother be glad;<br/>may she who gave you birth rejoice!</i></p> <p><b>Proverbs 27:11</b><br/><i>Be wise, my son, and bring joy to my heart;<br/>then I can answer anyone who treats me with contempt.</i></p> <p><b>Proverbs 29:3</b><br/><i>A man who loves wisdom brings joy to his father,<br/>but a companion of prostitutes squanders his wealth.</i></p> <p><b>Proverbs 29:17</b><br/><i>Discipline your son, and he will give you peace;<br/>he will bring delight to your soul.</i></p> | <p><b>Proverbs 15:20b</b><br/><i>but a foolish man despises his mother.</i></p> <p><b>Proverbs 17:21</b><br/><i>To have a fool for a son brings grief;<br/>there is no joy for the father of a fool.</i></p> <p><b>Proverbs 17:25</b><br/><i>A foolish son brings grief to his father<br/>and bitterness to the one who bore him.</i></p> <p><b>Proverbs 19:13a</b><br/><i>A foolish son is his father's ruin,</i></p> <p><b>Proverbs 19:26</b><br/><i>He who robs his father and drives out his mother<br/>is a son who brings shame and disgrace.</i></p> <p><b>Proverbs 28:7</b><br/><i>He who keeps the law is a discerning son,<br/>but a companion of gluttons disgraces his father.</i></p> |

## II. The Sons

- Wise son
  - What does he do?
    - He is a joy to his parents
    - Gives them rest
    - No worries in relationships
    - Complete trust
  - What are his characteristics? (From **Proverbs 1-9**)<sup>1</sup>
    - He fears God (**1:1-9**)
    - He chooses friends wisely (**1:10-19**)
    - He listens and applies his parents' teaching (**1:20-33**)
    - He seeks God's wisdom (**2**)
    - He loves God and man (**3**)
    - He lives a wise life (**4**)
    - He seeks only his wife (**5**)
    - He uses God's words to keep him from sin (**6**)
    - He does not fall for the adulteress (**7**)
    - He embraces Lady Wisdom (**8**)
    - He eats at Lady Wisdom's table (**9**)
  - He does things to please God and his parents
    - He obeys God and he will obey his parents
    - However, obeying parents does not always mean that he will obey God
  - He embraces his parent's godly values and instructions
  - Solomon is giving this command to children to be a blessing to their parents
    - Because it pleases God
    - Because it is the right thing to do
    - Because they love their parents
- Foolish son
  - What does he do?
    - Brings grief
    - Causes shame
    - Ruins family wealth and name
  - What are his characteristics?
    - Complete opposite of the wise son
    - Hates knowledge and does not fear God (**1:7**)
    - Chooses wrong groups of friends (**1:10**)
    - Rejects and/or ignores parents' teaching
    - Harms his friends

### **Proverbs 13:20**

*He who walks with the wise grows wise,  
but a companion of fools suffers harm.*

- Does not learn from mistakes

### **Proverbs 17:10**

*A rebuke impresses a man of discernment  
more than a hundred lashes a fool.*

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<sup>1</sup> Dan Phillips, *Glad Dad, Glum Mum*. God's Revolutionary Wisdom series. Copperfield Bible Church. June 29, 2014. Sermon.

- Thinks sin is fun and funny

***Proverbs 10:23***

*A fool finds pleasure in evil conduct,  
but a man of understanding delights in wisdom.*

- Will not listen to wisdom or rebuke
- Will not repent or change (1:32)
- He rebels against his parents and God
- He ruins his parents' life-long work
- Open hatred to his parents

### **III. The Parents**

- Joy
  - When parents instruct children God's way
  - And children obey and show fruit of God's work in their life = joy
- Agony
  - Constant pain and heartache
  - Humiliation of child's frequent foray into sin
- Responsibility
  - Do your job as parents
  - Train your children as God wants you to do
  - God never guaranteed that your training will result in godly children
  - Children will make their own choices—they can either accept or reject God's teaching