

ORNAMENT OF GRACE

PROVERBS 1:1-9

Text: Proverbs 1:9

Proverbs 1:9

⁹For they *shall be* an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.

Introduction:

Often overlooked while looking for family wisdom is the Book of Proverbs.

Yet this wisdom book of the Bible deals with numerous family topics: avoiding fools and foolish behavior; communication; the value of hard, honest work and the detrimental effects of laziness; the proper way to handle anger; getting along with others; wealth, poverty, and giving; and many more valuable tools for family harmony and instruction.

In this chapter we find attributes of wisdom that every parent and child should walk in.

1. THE PRINCIPLE (PROV. 1:7)

Proverbs 1:7-8

⁷The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

A. Reverence – The Fear of the Lord

2. THE PLAN (PROV. 1:8)

Proverbs 1:8

⁸My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

A. Instruction

The Hebrew word translated INSTRUCTION literally has to do with discipline. It is used 25 times in Proverbs, translated various ways in our English Bible: "reproof, chastisement, and warning," as well as INSTRUCTION.

INSTRUCTION is where good discipline begins!

They learn from INSTRUCTION that is clearly given, boundaries that are clearly set, and follow-through.

INSTRUCTION manuals for children are not handed out at the hospital when you bring your baby home because you are supposed to provide the INSTRUCTION manual to your child, based on God's Word.

B. Insight

Words like "knowledge, discretion, understanding, and wise," insinuate how good parents don't just want to teach their children how to make a living; they want to teach them how to live!

If we lead our children to a close personal relationship with God and teach them how to have solid relationships with others we will have grounded them in the two most important commandments.

Matthew 22:37-40

³⁷ Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

This is what God considers the most valuable insight to give our children.

C. Influence and Integrity

Instructions and laws are what we say. But those instructions are only good up to a point. Our children will be more influenced by what we do.

Too many say, "Do as I say Not as I do" that should not be.

And our behavior, although not perfect, must be consistently biblical.

3. THE PRODUCT (PROV. 1:9)

Proverbs 1:9

⁹ For they *shall be* an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.

Once you have carefully instructed your children in God's wisdom, given them insight into life, and influenced them biblically, they will gradually emerge with the integrity that honors the Lord.

To the Israelite's mind no signs or badges of joy or glory were higher in worth than the garland around the head, the gold chain around the neck, worn by kings and the favorites of kings.

Genesis 41:42

⁴² And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck;

Daniel 5:29

²⁹ Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and *put* a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

Children of integrity will be far more valuable jewelry than the trinkets of the culture around us.