

Proverbs—Choosing Wisdom in a Foolish World
Parenting Wisdom:

It's *Proverbs* 22:6...not Promise 22:6

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / June 10, 2018

I. Proverbs 22:6 reminds us that parenting is about training.

Prov. 22:6a Train up a child in the way he should go...

- a. The Hebrew word translated “train” literally means to “dedicate.” As parents, we want to channel their thinking and conduct in the way of wisdom.
- b. The Hebrew phrase translated “in the way he should go...” is literally “according to his way.”
 - i. There is no “cookie-cutter” parenting method.
 - ii. The term “way” in Proverbs usually refers to the path someone chooses to take through life.

Eph. 6:4 ...bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

2 Tim. 3:15 ...and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

II. Proverbs 22:6 reminds us to parent with “the long view” in mind.

Prov. 22:6b ...even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Remember—as parents, our hope & prayer is that our children will choose wisdom when we’re not looking, when we’re not there to help, and the choice is theirs alone to make (Prov. 1:2-9).

III. Parenting Proverbs interpreted as Parenting Promises creates Parenting Problems.

- a. **Proverbs connected to an action or attribute of God are always true...because He does not change (Mal. 3:6).**

Prov. 12:22 – Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord...

Prov. 15:3 – The eyes of the Lord are in every place...

Prov. 16:33 – The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.

Prov. 22:2 – The rich and the poor meet together; the Lord is the Maker of them all.

- b. **Proverbs connected to a circumstance of life or people are generally true, but shouldn't be confused as promises.**

Prov. 21:5 The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance...

Prov. 21:7 The violence of the wicked will sweep them away...

Prov. 21:21 Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness will find life, righteousness and honor.

Prov. 21:25 The desire of the sluggard kills him, for his hands refuse to labor.

If you read Proverbs 22:6 as Promise 22:6, you'll become a "Vending Machine Parent." This is the false notion that if you push the right buttons, you'll get the product you desire.

2 Dangerous Results of being a "Vending Machine Parent"

- (1) "Vending Machine Parents" suffer from **foolish pride**—taking credit for that which is God's alone.

James 1:17 - ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above...

Isa. 43:11 - ¹¹ I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior.

John 14:6 - ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Titus 3:5 - ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy...

- (2) "Vending Machine Parents" suffer from **unnecessary guilt and shame**—bearing the guilt & weight of sin that isn't theirs.

Rom. 5:12 - ¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

Ezek. 18:20 - ²⁰ The soul who sins shall die. **The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son.** The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

IV. Parents & children alike can cling to the promise of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Rom. 10:13 - ¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Heb. 4:14-16 - ¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.