

## Message #97

## Proverbs 23:22-25

The power to emotionally execute godly parents or encourage parents lies in the choice of a child. If a child chooses to rebel and turn his back on godly wisdom, he kills his parents. If he chooses to obey and turn to godly wisdom, he gives joy to his parents.

**A WISE CHILD HONORS HIS PARENTS AND PURSUES GOD'S WISDOM FOR THAT BRINGS GREAT BLESSINGS TO SELF AND GREAT JOY TO PARENTS.**

Obeying and honoring parents is more than an issue of personal choice; it is an important issue to God. Most commentators believe saying 15 of our 30 sayings is found in **verses 22-23** and saying 16 is found in **verses 24-25**. However, I would like to analyze this passage under three main admonitions:

**ADMONITION #1** – The request for a proper attitude toward parents. **23:22**

First, the exhortation is to listen to, understand and obey the instructions of the father and second, not to hold the mother or her teachings in contempt or in any demeaning way when she is older. By virtue of the fact that there is a reference to “begot” and to “old,” the wise men cover a child’s entire life. As Robert Alden said, “The teaching...suggests we should honor our parents from the time we are born until the time they die.” This principle is seen in every dispensation—the law (Ex. 20:12); the teachings of Christ (Matt. 17:4-9); and the teachings of Paul (Eph. 6:2-3).

**ADMONITION #2** – The request for proper objectives in life. **23:23**

The words “buy” and “sell” mean exactly what you would think. What is to be bought and not sold is truth and three nouns emphasize this reality—wisdom, instruction, and understanding. Together, these three nouns place a major emphasis on the Word of God.

**ADMONITION #3** – The results of proper obedience to parents. **23:24-25**

The effect that a wise child has on his or her parents is he/she brings them great joy. There are two different Hebrew words used for joy which together imply an internal and an external joy that is so merry that it leaps and dances and causes the heart to palpitate. It is the father who begets the child and the mother who bears the child. The father gives the child life and the mother gives the child birth. When a child chooses to go after God’s wisdom, he brings great joy to those humanly responsible for his very existence.

The best way for a parent to teach their children the value of God’s wisdom is by example. When children see parents focused on excelling in the things of God, rather than the things of the world, it is impacting. Young people need to realize that God expects them to honor their godly parents and the child who chooses to do this will benefit greatly and so will the parents.