

# PROVERBS

## Lesson 7 – Wisdom Teaches about Family Life

1. The basic building block of society is the family. The basic building block of families is marriage, and probably the greatest threat to a healthy marriage is adultery. But adultery has grave consequences for the individuals involved. Proverbs has much to say about that. (These passages are addressed to males but apply to females as well.) Read 2:16-19; 5:1-14, 20-23; 6:20-28. Why does wisdom warn so urgently against adultery?
2. In contrast how is marital love and faithfulness pictured (5:15-23)? (Note the context of these verses; the surrounding verses were read in the previous question.)
3. Proverbs recognizes that the quality of one's spouse and thus one's marriage had great influence on one's whole life. What does Proverbs have to say about a quarrelsome wife: 21:9, 19; 27:15-16?
4. What contrast is made in 12:4? What else does Proverbs say about a good wife (19:14)?
5. The classic picture of a noble wife is found in 31:10-31. AS you read the passage, note that the OT portrayal pictures the noble wife as involved in business as well as domestic activities. What characterizes this woman (note especially the characteristics listed in 31:26, 30)?
6. The quality of the parents' lives has an enormous effect on their children. According to 20:7, what is a blessing to children?

7. How parents raise their children also has enormous consequences for the kind of people the children will be and the kind of lives they will live. What does 22:6 instruct parents to do? Why? (Remember that verses like this are general rules not hard and fast promises. There are times when children go astray due to no fault of their parents or their upbringing. See 13:1; 17:21; 29:3)
  
8. A theme that occurs numerous times in Proverbs is the absolute necessity of discipline for the upbringing of righteous children. What do these verses have to say about disciplining or not disciplining children: 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15, 17?
  
9. Proverbs also contains instructions for children. What instruction is found in these verses: 6:20-24; 23:22-25?
  
10. Grave consequences are in store for those who despise their parents. What consequences are listed in 20:20 and 30:17?
  
11. How parents bring up their children and how children respond to that upbringing are both components in whether or not the children become wise or foolish. What effect does how a child turns out have on his or her parents (10:1)?