

## Proverbs Pt. 7

Pastor James Foley – Shared Sunday, September 19, 2021

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### OPENING

Good morning. It is good to see Shawn and Katie back in service today (i.e., with baby Audrey). God bless you...

**FYI 1** – I have been around enough first time parents to know the following to be true: they are typically a bit protective and nervous about being in public (i.e., since everyone and their cousin wants to hold and/or touch the newborn). PSA...

**FYI 2** – Assume the parents do not want you to hold their baby unless explicitly invited to do so. If you are brave and want to operate apart from this wisdom, you can risk asking. Of course, if they say NO, please respect their opinion. Remember...

**FYI 3** – There are few things in life as scary as a protective and sleep-deprived mama bear. Operate accordingly.

**KEY** – Thank you for joining us today! Whether you are here in person or watching via the livestream, you are most welcome. Please have a Bible at the ready and be prepared to take some notes. We have much to cover in a relatively short amount of time.

## INTRODUCTION

**NOTE 1** – Today we conclude our extended series on the Book of Proverbs. As I have noted in recent weeks, the Book of Proverbs offers divine wisdom for daily life and living. Thus, those who wish to live well before God and among men, properly discerning good from evil, do well to consider this timeless and timely work. Once again, it should be noted that...

**NOTE 2** – The Book of Proverbs serves as a compilation of individual proverbs that address nearly every facet of life (e.g., pride v. humility, anger v. self-control, hatred v. compassion, poverty v. wealth, charity v. greed, hard work v. idleness, matters of reputation and legacy, family, friendship, submission to governing authority, the power our words, and beyond).

**KEY** – This AM I would like to consider what the Book of Proverbs says concerning matters of home and family.

### HOME PT. 1

**FYI 1** – Several years ago I was at a District Council Meeting of the Assemblies of God wherein Pastor Bob Wise shared concerning an article he had read. Simply stated, the article centered upon the “most beautiful word” in the English language. Apparently, the author had conducted a poll soliciting the opinion of his or her readers. In response, thousands of answers were submitted, tabulated, and so forth...

**FYI 2** – Pastor Bob Wise put forth his opinion on the matter, positing the word *remission*. He noted that this term holds particular beauty for those who have faced cancer (i.e., directly or in the life of a loved one). Perhaps you have your own opinion regarding our most beautiful term! Ultimately, Pastor Bob revealed the predominant response of the readership, with the most beautiful word being *home*...

**KEY** – There is something truly beautiful about this word...

### HOME PT. 2

**NOTE 1** – The word *home* evokes themes of family and familial connection, mutual care and concern, nurture, protection and provision, welcome, unconditional love and acceptance, etc. It never ceases to amaze me how much can be communicated and/or conveyed in a single term!

**NOTE 2** – Of course, as Christians we believe the Lord God to be the creator of the home and the family unit. It was He who identified Adam as somehow lacking or incomplete left to himself (Gen. 2:18): “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

**NOTE 3** – Herein Adam was given a wife and, in time, children. Thus, the concept of *home* and all it entails are outflows of His grand design and expressions of His goodness. The pain many have experienced in broken homes does not negate the good purpose of God...

**KEY** – Since God designed the home and family, we should not be surprised to discover how much He has to say about it! In fact, matters of home and family dominate the pages of the Book of Proverbs. LET’S DELVE IN...

## **HOME – A PLACE OF GREAT JOY**

**NOTE 1** – To begin, the Book of Proverbs establishes that the home was fashioned to be a source of great joy!

**NOTE 2** – In fact, each member of the family was made to contribute to the happiness of all other members...

### **1) Spouses Are to Take Joy in One Another**

#### **Proverbs 5:18–19 (NIV)**

18 May your fountain be blessed,  
and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth.  
19 A loving doe, a graceful deer—  
may her breasts satisfy you always,  
may you ever be intoxicated with her love.

#### **Proverbs 31:28 (re: the Virtuous Woman)**

28 Her children arise and call her blessed;  
her husband also, and he praises her:

### **2) Parents Are to Take Joy in their Children**

#### **Proverbs 10:1b**

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

#### **Proverbs 23:15–16**

15 My son, if your heart is wise,  
then my heart will be glad indeed;  
16 my inmost being will rejoice  
when your lips speak what is right.

### **3) Grandparents Are to Take Joy in their Progeny**

#### **Proverbs 17:6**

6 Children's children are a crown to the aged,  
and parents are the pride of their children.

### **4) Children Are to Revel in their Elders**

#### **Proverbs 31:28 (re: the Virtuous Woman)**

28 Her children arise and call her blessed;  
her husband also, and he praises her . . .

**KEY** – Moreover, the Book of Proverbs has much to say concerning each of these members of the family unit...

## HOME – THE MEN

The Book of Proverbs has much to say to the men within the family unit (i.e., husbands and fathers)...

### 1) It Calls Men to Righteous Living

#### Proverbs 20:7 (NKJV)

7 The righteous man walks in his integrity; His children are blessed after him.

### 2) It Portrays Men as Sources or Conduits of Godly Wisdom

**NOTE 1** – Quite often the author(s) of the Book of Proverbs appeals to the reader as though he were a father speaking to a son. It is his desire to influence and instruct the reader unto the Lord in the same way a good father would seek to influence and instruct his child. Consider the following...

#### Proverbs 3:1–2 (NIV)

1 My son, do not forget my teaching,  
but keep my commands in your heart,  
2 for they will prolong your life many years  
and bring you peace and prosperity.

#### Proverbs 4:1–2

1 Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction;  
pay attention and gain understanding.  
2 I give you sound learning,  
so do not forsake my teaching.

**NOTE 2** – We glean insight into the nature and role of a godly man through such passages. Godly men demonstrate concern for the spiritual and temporal well-being of their family in Christ. They call those in their care to serve the Lord, seeking to impart divine wisdom where it is needed.

### 3) It Speaks to Husbands re: the Treatment of their Wives

**KEY 1** – Perhaps the most dominant message to men in the Book of Proverbs pertains to the manner in which we are to treat our wives. Does IT touch upon fathers and children? Yes. Does it touch upon matters of discipline for little ones? Yes. But it homes in on this reality above all others...

#### A) We Are to Treat Them as Gifts and Treasures...

#### Proverbs 18:22

22 He who finds a wife finds what is good  
and receives favor from the Lord.

#### Proverbs 19:14

14 Houses and wealth are inherited from parents,  
but a prudent wife is from the Lord.

**Q. To what degree do you value your wife according to these principles?**

## **B) We Are to Celebrate Our Wives in Kind...**

Proverbs 31:28 (re: the Virtuous Woman)

28 Her children arise and call her blessed;  
her husband also, and he praises her . . .

## **C) We Are to Reward Our Wives...**

### **Proverbs 31:30–31**

30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;  
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.  
31 Honor her for all that her hands have done,  
and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

## **D) We Are to Remain Faithful to Our Wives...**

### **Proverbs 18:15–23**

15 Drink water from your own cistern,  
running water from your own well.  
16 Should your springs overflow in the streets,  
your streams of water in the public squares?  
17 Let them be yours alone,  
never to be shared with strangers.  
18 May your fountain be blessed,  
and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth.  
19 A loving doe, a graceful deer—  
may her breasts satisfy you always,  
may you ever be intoxicated with her love.  
20 Why, my son, be intoxicated with another man's wife?  
Why embrace the bosom of a wayward woman?  
21 For your ways are in full view of the Lord,  
and he examines all your paths.  
22 The evil deeds of the wicked ensnare them;  
the cords of their sins hold them fast.  
23 For lack of discipline they will die,  
led astray by their own great folly.

**KEY 2** – In fact, the most common caution given to men is the caution against infidelity...

### **Proverbs 5:1–5**

1 My son, pay attention to my wisdom,  
turn your ear to my words of insight,  
2 that you may maintain discretion  
and your lips may preserve knowledge.  
3 For the lips of the adulterous woman drip honey,  
and her speech is smoother than oil;

4 but in the end she is bitter as gall,  
sharp as a double-edged sword.

5 Her feet go down to death;  
her steps lead straight to the grave.

6 She gives no thought to the way of life;  
her paths wander aimlessly, but she does not  
know it.

## HOME – THE WOMEN

The Book of Proverbs has much to say to the ladies within the family unit (i.e., wives and mothers)...

**NOTE 1** – In many ways the family unit depends upon you and your work. Though the man may be the head of the household (i.e., in the biblical sense of the phrase), you are the neck upon which everything turns! Proverbs indicates the capacity of the wife and mother to make OR break her household...

### Proverbs 14:1

1 The wise woman builds her house,  
but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.

**NOTE 2** – This work speaks eloquently to the type of woman the Lord has fashioned you to be (cf. Prov. 31)...

### 1) Trustworthy

#### Proverbs 31:11

11 Her husband has full confidence in her  
and lacks nothing of value.

### 2) A Source of Blessing

#### Proverbs 31:12

12 She brings him good, not harm,  
all the days of her life.

### 3) Industrious

#### Proverbs 31:13–22

13 She selects wool and flax  
and works with eager hands.  
14 She is like the merchant ships,  
bringing her food from afar.  
15 She gets up while it is still night;  
she provides food for her family  
and portions for her female servants.  
16 She considers a field and buys it;  
out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.  
17 She sets about her work vigorously;  
her arms are strong for her tasks.

18 She sees that her trading is profitable,  
and her lamp does not go out at night.  
19 In her hand she holds the distaff  
and grasps the spindle with her fingers.  
20 She opens her arms to the poor  
and extends her hands to the needy.  
21 When it snows, she has no fear for her  
household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet.  
22 She makes coverings for her bed;  
she is clothed in fine linen and purple.

### 4) Compassionate

#### Proverbs 31:20

20 She opens her arms to the poor  
and extends her hands to the needy.

## 5) Of Noble Character

### Proverbs 31:25a

25 She is clothed with strength and dignity;  
she can laugh at the days to come.

## 6) Abounding in Wisdom

### Proverbs 31:26

26 She speaks with wisdom,  
and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

## 7) Celebrated

### Proverbs 31:28

28 Her children arise and call her blessed;  
her husband also, and he praises her:  
29 “Many women do noble things,  
but you surpass them all.”  
30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;  
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.  
31 Honor her for all that her hands have done,  
and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

**FYI 1** – I have heard many ladies lament Proverbs 31 (i.e., as it reminds them of their failings and insecurities). Rather than see it as an impossible standard that you can never hope to attain, see it is a reminder of what the Lord deems beautiful and what He can empower you to be in Christ! You will likely never be a supermodel in a worldly sense, but you can be a model of what He deems enduringly beautiful.

**NOTE 3** – The most common caution in the Book of Proverbs for women has nothing to do with adultery. Recognizing that women are wired a bit differently than men, the author(s) of the Book of Proverbs offer the following insights...

### Proverbs 21:9, 19

9 Better to live on a corner of the roof  
than share a house with a quarrelsome wife.  
19 Better to live in a desert  
than with a quarrelsome and nagging wife.

**FYI 2** – The Word tends to warn women against being quarrelsome, contentious and a nag. Though the men you live with are likely the cause of your irritation, there are better, biblical ways to deal with your frustrations! Spend some time with the Lord and in His Word—all the answers you need for your marriage are there!

## HOME – THE CHILDREN PT. 1

Moreover, the Book of Proverbs has much to say to children within the family unit...

### 1) The Call to Biblical Reverence and Obedience

#### Proverbs 13:1

1 A wise son heeds his father's instruction,  
but a mocker does not respond to rebukes.

#### Proverbs 15:5

5 A fool spurns a parent's discipline,  
but whoever heeds correction shows prudence.

#### Proverbs 23:22

22 Listen to your father, who gave you life,  
and do not despise your mother when she is old.

### 2) The Call to Honor Them in Your Speech

#### Proverbs 20:20

20 If someone curses their father or mother,  
their lamp will be snuffed out in pitch darkness.

**NOTE** – In the age of the OT, a person who cursed his or her parents violated the Fifth Commandment (cr. Exod. 20:12) and committed a capital offense. Death was the penalty for cursing and/or rebelling against your parents (cr. Exod. 21:17; Lev. 20:9).

### 3) The Call to Bless Them w/ Our Actions

#### Proverbs 19:26

26 Whoever robs their father and drives out their mother  
is a child who brings shame and disgrace.

#### Proverbs 23:22

22 Listen to your father, who gave you life,  
and do not despise your mother when she is old.



## HOME – THE CHILDREN PT. 2

The Book of Proverbs reveals that children can be a source of great joy or extreme affliction for their parents...

### 1) A Source of Great Joy

#### Proverbs 23:15–16, 22–25

15 My son, if your heart is wise,  
then my heart will be glad indeed;  
16 my inmost being will rejoice  
when your lips speak what is right.

22 Listen to your father, who gave you life,  
and do not despise your mother when she is old.  
23 Buy the truth and do not sell it—  
wisdom, instruction and insight as well.  
24 The father of a righteous child has great joy;  
a man who fathers a wise son rejoices in him.  
25 May your father and mother rejoice;  
may she who gave you birth be joyful!

### 2) A Source of Great Affliction

#### Proverbs 17:21, 25

21 To have a fool for a child brings grief;  
there is no joy for the parent of a godless fool.  
25 A foolish son brings grief to his father  
and bitterness to the mother who bore him.

**KEY** – Choose wisely which you shall be, for there is great benefit or curse in kind...

## HOME – THE AGED

Before I close, the Book of Proverbs also has much to say to the aged. Please note the following (briefly)...

#### Proverbs 17:6

6 Children's children are a crown to the aged,  
and parents are the pride of their children.

**NOTE** – It is the way of things for grandparents to take joy in their posterity AND for their posterity to take joy in them! Grand-dad and Grand-mom – we love and look up to you. Many of us came to faith in Christ because of your prayerful influence. Many of us aspire to be like you, and sometimes you are the people we feel the most “at home” with! Invest in us; tell your stories; pass on your wisdom; we need you!. Your wrinkles and gray hair testify to the experiences you have navigated. You are irreplaceable...

#### Proverbs 16:31

31 Gray hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained in the way of righteousness.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

**NOTE 1** – The Lord is the architect and creator of the family unit

**NOTE 2** – The Lord has made the home to be a source of blessing

**NOTE 3** – The Lord has commands for EACH member of the home

**KEY** – Look to and trust Him, watching what He can do. Remember, healthful homes are not an accident...

### Proverbs 24:3–4

3 By wisdom a house is built,  
and through understanding it is established;  
4 through knowledge its rooms are filled  
with rare and beautiful treasures.

## CONCLUSIONS

**NOTE 1** – Those who wish to give online may do so at [www.NewLifeBarre.org](http://www.NewLifeBarre.org). Those who wish to give in person can utilize the offering boxes located throughout the church facility. Thank you for your faithfulness in supporting the work of the Lord!

**NOTE 2** – Sunday School each week at 9:15am; Thursday Bible Study at 6:30pm; WM 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday; MM & CYC...

**NOTE 3** – Reminder that Potluck Supper is taking place next Sunday morning after service.

**NOTE 4** – Those who wish to linger in this sanctuary may feel free to do so. This is to be a house of prayer, so those who feel the need to pray may do so as they please. Moreover, I would be more than happy to pray with those who have need(s).

### Numbers 6:24–26

24 The Lord bless you  
and keep you;  
25 the Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you;  
26 the Lord turn his face toward you  
and give you peace.