

Using Proverbs at Home

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from and outline by Steve Higganbotham)

Introduction:

- A. The book of Proverbs is well suited to offer counsel for strengthening homes.
 - 1. Prov. 1:1-9

I. CHARACTERISTICS OF GREAT FAMILIES OUTLINED IN PROVERBS

A. The wife must:

- 1. Be trustworthy - Prov. 31:11
- 2. Have an enduring love - Prov. 31:12
- 3. Develop the inner person - Prov. 31:25
- 4. Speak wisdom and kindness - Prov. 31:26
- 5. Not be contentious - Prov. 21:19

B. The husband must:

- 1. Praise his wife - Prov. 31:28-29
- 2. Rejoice with the wife of his youth - Prov. 5:15-18
- 3. "Why did he only give men a couple of things to do?" Perhaps because that's all they can handle at one time (intended as humor)

C. The family must:

- 1. Guard their name and influence - Prov. 22:1
- 2. Be accountable to one another - Prov. 12:15, 27:17
- 3. Practice forgiveness - Prov. 17:9
- 4. Practice honesty - Prov. 21:2-3
- 5. Practice reverence - Prov. 14:26; 16:3
- 6. Practice contentment - Prov. 15:16, 16:8
- 7. Practice respect - Prov. 16:31, 23:22
- 8. Communicate - Prov. 25:11

Conclusion:

- A. Proverbs' instructions for the home are far more extensive, covering many areas where wisdom is needed, but all can be summarized in five points:
 - 1. Love God and each other
 - 2. Administer instruction and disciple with caring concern.
 - 3. Practice consistency providing security in standards and morals.
 - 4. Be the kind of example that instills deep faith in God in others.
 - 5. Be the kind of family that puts God first in all decisions.