

The Necessity of Mothers in Training Leaders

Proverbs 31:1-9

- 1. Retain** _____ (vs.1-2)
Mothers, as well as fathers, have the high calling and obligation to train up children so that they can know the Lord (Prov. 1:8; 6:20; cf. 1 Tim. 2:15; 2 Tim. 1:5), to walk with the Lord (cf. Deut. 6:6-7), and to grow up to maturity and be prepared to use godly wisdom in whatever occupation the Lord has for them (cf. Prov. 31:1). In order for a woman to be able to teach her children these most important truths, she must also learn and know the truth (John 10:38-42; cf. 1 Cor. 14:35). A mother is not ultimately responsible for her children's faithfulness in keeping her instructions or in walking with the Lord (cf. Ezek 18:20). Each child's immediate (Eph. 6:1) and lifelong obedience (Prov. 1:8) is solely the child's responsibility.
- 2. Refrain** _____ (v.3)
Debaucherous behavior is a sure way to destroy a person's life Every person must be wary of the danger of sexual immorality, and it is to her children's benefit if a mother speaks clearly about this unique danger (v.3). The way of the adulterer will appear attractive because of flattering words (Prov. 2:16; 5:3) and behaviors (Prov. 7:13-21). A child must be instructed in what is right and wrong in the area of sexual morality, so that he or she will have the ability to resist the strong desires of another person (cf. Gen. 39:9). Regularly reminding children about the goodness of reserving sexual excitement and sexual intimacy for marriage is a blessing to your children (Prov. 5:15-23; cf. Heb. 13:4).
- 3. Remain** _____ (vs.4-7)
Drunkenness, while it often goes hand in hand with sexual immorality, is also a dangerous snare in itself. Drunkenness is a state of being where a person's thoughts and actions are primarily being influenced by alcohol, and Christians are not to be drunk (cf. Eph. 5:18). Wine and strong drink contribute to a mockery of what is right as well as to other wicked activities (Prov. 19:27-20:1; Isa. 5:22-23; cf. Prov. 23:20). Mothers ought to teach their children the dangers of the over consumption of alcohol or of the use of any other substance that directly effects 4 a person's ability to think clearly or to be filled with of the Spirit (Eph 5:18).
- 4. Raise** _____ (vs.8-9)
Worldly wisdom recognizes the value of making friends with the powerful and with helping people who can return the favor to you (cf. Luke 16:1ff). Christians are not to focus our friendship, our help or our kindness on those who can bless us in return (Luke 14:12-14). A mother is to help guide her children to believe and speak what is good, right, and true (cf. Prov. 1:8; 6:20; 2 Tim. 1:5). She is to help her children see the godliness of reaching out to those who are in need and to help speak in defense of people who cannot speak for themselves (James 1:27).