

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for May 13, 2018**

**Parenting in a Sinful World**  
**Proverbs 1:8-19**

I. The teaching (1:8-9)

*8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching,  
9 for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.*

- What can we say about this “instruction” and “teaching”?
  - The teaching is from parents to children (v. 8)
    - Parents are responsible to teach their children
      - Not to be contracted out to others
      - Israelite society expected parents to teach their children
      - Ephesians 6:4 “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”
      - Titus 2:4 “... They are to teach what is good, 4 and so train the young women to love their husbands and children”
    - Can we be more specific about what parents are to teach their children?
    - Parents are to teach their children God’s Word
      - Not the secret family recipe
      - Not how to get the highest paying job
      - Not general advice and life tips (though nothing wrong with those)
      - Deuteronomy 6:4-7 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”
  - The teaching adorns child’s life (v. 9)
    - The Israelite society was well aware of the concept of blessings and curses (Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28)
    - These blessings and curses came in response to their faithfulness to the Word of God
      - Obeying God’s Word meant blessing and honor for them as a nation
    - On a smaller scale, this was true of the Israelite family
      - When children obeyed their parents’ teaching (the Word of God) then there would be blessing and honor for them as an individual
      - Proverbs 4:7-9 “The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight. 8 Prize her highly, and she will exalt you; she will honor you if you embrace her. 9 She will place on your head a graceful garland; she will bestow on you a beautiful crown.”

- While the New Testament church is not promised external honor, riches, and success for obeying God’s Word there are other known promises
- God’s Word will work internally to transform hearts by the Spirit of God
  - Should God soften one’s heart to be changed by His Word, then one’s life will be externally and visibly different and filled with good works unto God
  - God’s Word adorns one’s life with good deeds bringing more praise unto God

## II. The temptation (1:10-14)

*10 My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent.*

*11 If they say, “Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood; let us ambush the innocent without reason;*

*12 like Sheol let us swallow them alive, and whole, like those who go down to the pit;*

*13 we shall find all precious goods, we shall fill our houses with plunder;*

*14 throw in your lot among us; we will all have one purse”—*

- What can we learn about the temptation or enticement?
  - Temptation comes from “sinners” (v. 10)
    - Parents warn children for their physical protection
      - At some point, every parent acknowledges the need of telling their children about bad people in the world
      - They essentially give their children the warning of “stranger danger”
    - Parents need to warn children for spiritual protection
      - This is the spiritual equivalent of “stranger danger”
      - “Sinners” will come and entice unto sin
  - Temptation proposes sin (vv. 11-12)
    - This is not a matter of where children will be told to invest their money
    - This is not a matter of what car a child should drive
    - This is not a matter of career paths for children
    - This is a matter of violating the Law of God
    - How?
      - This behavior is violent
        - “Let us lie in wait for blood; let us ambush” (v. 11)
      - This behavior is inconsiderate and reckless
        - “Let us ambush the innocent without reason” (v. 11)
      - This behavior is destructive
        - “Like Sheol let us swallow them alive, and whole, like those who go down to the pit” (v. 12)
    - Application: As parents, is our primary concern and interest in talking to children pertaining to the Word of God?
  - Temptation promises reward (vv. 13-14)
    - Reward

- “We shall find all precious goods, we shall fill our houses with plunder” (v. 13)
- James 1:14 “But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.”
- Cooperative
  - “Throw in your lot among us; we will all have one purse” (v. 14)
  - Ironic stupidity
    - Working with violent and ruthless people
    - Do you think they will be fair and reasonable when it comes to dividing up the spoil from whatever money was stolen?
- Application: Our children need to be taught about the temptations that will come their direction
  - We cannot hide them from every opportunity to sin
  - To do so, would be to remove them from the world
  - However, Jesus made it clear that we have been left in the world for a reason
  - We must teach our children about the temptations that will come so that they might know how to respond

### III. The truth (1:15-16)

*15 my son, do not walk in the way with them; hold back your foot from their paths, 16 for their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood.*

- Knowing the enticing temptation that is sure to come, the truth is clearly stated
  - Children cannot be friends on the path with sinners (v. 15)
    - Not enough to say, “do not consent” or “don’t do it” from v. 10
    - Solomon tells son not to even walk on the paths of such sinful and violent people
    - Psalm 1:1-2 “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.”
    - James 4:4 “You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”
    - Why the strong admonition against walking with sinners?
    - Because of the truth of their outcome stated in verse 16
  - The way of the sinner is the way of evil (v. 16)
    - Intimate association with sinners will inevitably lead to participation with sinners
    - What do sinner’s do?
      - They sin!
    - “Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood”
      - This is a common description of sinful people

- Isaiah 59:7 “Their feet run to evil, and they are swift to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; desolation and destruction are in their highways.”
- Romans 3:15-18 “Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes.”
- If sinful people are blinded by Satan from seeing the gospel of Christ
- If sinful people are dead in their sins and transgressions
- If sinful people are enslaved to their own fleshly desires and impulses
  - Then it should not be surprising when they sin!
- Application: Our children need to be told the truth about sinners and their sin
  - They need to see that there are two paths in life
  - There is the path with the wide gate and easy road leading to destruction
  - There is the path with the narrow gate and hard road leading to life
  - There is no middle road
  - There is no sitting on the fence
  - Our lives and our teaching must constantly show this to our children
  - We must show them how Christ is our King who rules over every detail of our life through His Word
  - We cannot shy away from the truth

#### IV. The trap (1:17-19)

*17 For in vain is a net spread in the sight of any bird,*

*18 but these men lie in wait for their own blood; they set an ambush for their own lives.*

*19 Such are the ways of everyone who is greedy for unjust gain; it takes away the life of its possessors.*

- Birds and animals of prey know how to avoid a trap when they see it being set
  - Hunters probably laid out nets on the ground
  - Then, they put food out on the net
  - When the bird came to eat the food, they would immediately hoist the net, capturing the bird
  - However, birds are smart enough to stay away when they have seen this trap being set or when they have seen it work once
- However, these men do not realize the trap they are destined for themselves
  - This is the ironic trap of their violently sinful lifestyle
  - Instead of taking the blood of the innocent, their own blood will be taken
  - Instead of ambushing others, they will be ambushed
  - Such a violent lifestyle is not sustainable and it will catch up with the wicked eventually
  - Even if nothing happens in this life, the One true God knows and see all
    - Galatians 6:7 “Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.”
  - They will reap what they have sown eventually

- This is confirmed in verse 19
  - This is the ironic trap and outcome for those who are greedy for unjust gain
  - 1 Timothy 6:9-10 “But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.”
  - Their very lives will be taken away
- Application: This ought to be an urgent warning from parents to children
  - While sin may look nice and enticing, it certainly ends with more pain
  - Pain that will come in this life
  - Ultimate pain that will come in the next life when we stand before God giving an account for all that we have done