



Lesson 9

Preparing Young Adult Children for LIFE in the “Present Age”

by Linda Minnick

*Give me your heart, my son,
and let your eyes delight in my ways.
Proverbs 23:26*

Proverbs 23:25-26 Let your father and your mother be glad, and let her rejoice who gave birth to you. Give me your heart, my son, and let your eyes delight in my ways.

Proverbs 4:10-12 Hear, my son, and accept my sayings and the years of your life will be many. I have directed you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in upright paths. When you walk, your steps will not be impeded; and if you run, you will not stumble.

“Having our child’s heart has everything to do with their being prepared for life.”

1. How do/did you get/keep your child's heart during these critical years? What are some practical things you did?

*Proverbs 22:17-19 Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, and apply your mind to my knowledge: For it will be pleasant **if you keep them within you**, that they may be ready on your lips. So that your trust may be in the Lord, I have taught you today, even you.*

*II Timothy 3:14-15 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and **become convinced of**, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have know the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

Psalms 19:9-11 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. (ESV)

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 "These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons 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 up.

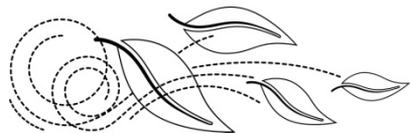
2. There are many life impacting decisions made during the few short years between high school education and marriage/ministry/vocation. How did you help your young adult children make wise decisions during this time? How involved were you in the decision making process?

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 2:1-3 My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; . . . then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. (ESV)

Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Proverbs 20:18 Prepare plans by consultation, and make war by wise guidance.



3. When our children go out into life we want them to be active in a local church ministry and know how to submit themselves to spiritual leadership. Assuming that we've been working toward that goal all along, what are the new challenges in meeting that goal at this new phase of parenting and what have you done to try to "teach and encourage" your young adult children in that direction?

Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

Hebrews 10:23-25 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

4. The next set of questions has to do with guiding them through decisions regarding education and vocation. We'll deal with Sons and Daughters separately as different considerations come into play.

Psalm 144:12 Let our sons in their youth be as grown-up plants, and our daughters as corner pillars fashioned as for a palace.

a. Guiding your sons

What was your approach to providing guidance for your sons to decide on a vocation/ministry calling and the training/education that he would need in preparation? How important is preparing for a good paying job in the decision making process? What if he doesn't get a job in his field of training? How did you recognize in him a call to full time ministry?

Proverbs 16:9 The mind of man plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.

1 Timothy 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

b. Guiding your daughters

Do daughters need a formal college education? How do you determine a course of study when she's not looking to have a career? How important is it for her to receive training in an area by which she could support herself? What if she doesn't use her educational training?

"Without intelligence and taste, are you fitted to be the companion of a wise and sensible man, or to preside with advantage over the education of children? . . . It is indeed the perfection of womanly character at once to "look well to the ways of her household" and also to "open her mouth with wisdom." How impressive and attractive a scene is it to see a pious, well-informed, accomplished woman, respected as well as beloved by her husband, as his intelligent companion, esteemed by his guests, and looked up to with confidence, reverence, and affection by her children, over whose general education she presides with dignity and ability."

Female Piety by John Angell James

Proverbs 31:27 She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.

5. How did you approach the transfer of financial responsibility: paying for educational training, transportation, personal needs, etc.? What did you do to prepare them for the responsibility of upkeep of a home, vehicle, and other material possessions?

Proverbs 23:26 Give me your heart, my son, and let your eyes delight in (observe) my ways.

Deuteronomy 6:7 You shall teach them diligently to your sons 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 up.

Proverbs 3:9-10 Honor the LORD from your wealth and from the first of all your produce; So your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine.

Proverbs 18:9 He also who is slack in his work is brother to him who destroys.

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