



*"And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified." (Acts 20:32)*

June 18, 2017

## **THE LABOR OF LOVE**

Father's Day Message 2017

I. **POINT:** Fathering a child can at times feel like \_\_\_\_\_  
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II. **TEXT** PROVERBS 23:24

"The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice; he who fathers a wise son will be glad in him."

III. **CONTEXT:** PROVERBS 23:22-25

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This passage can be divided into 2 halves:

1. Verses 22-23: The command to obey and follow the instruction of parents;<sup>1</sup> and
2. Verses 24-25: The motivation (i.e., to give the parent's enthusiastic joy)<sup>2</sup>.

When our children follow a life that honors and pleases God it brings great joy to their parents – that's the point.

IV. **MAIN POINTS:**

1. What Will It Cost?

Applied here we can assume that the effort given by the mother in childbirth and labor is similar to the effort it takes to father a child into a child that is wise.

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<sup>1</sup> Waltke, B. K. (2005). *The Book of Proverbs, Chapters 15–31* (p. 258). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid,

## 2. What's The Plan?

The child must be taught to “Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding.”<sup>1</sup> e.g. Matthew 13:45–46

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“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.” That’s the plan. Teach them to lose what they will never keep and keep what they will never lose.

Cf: Matthew 16:24; 10:39

## 3. What's It Look Like?

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Christ, “in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Colossians 2:3).

e.g. Galatians 4:19

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***The ultimate goal of fathering is to see Christ born into the lives of our children; to struggle and anguish with them as His life is emerging from in them to outside them.***

## V. SUMMARY:

In word, to father a child to wisdom, is to \_\_\_\_\_ that child in Christ.

## VI. APPLICATION:

For expectant fathers:

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<sup>1</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Pr 23:23). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

For current fathers:

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2. \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. \_\_\_\_\_  
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4. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Prayer:

*Lord today I ask your mercy to fall upon our Church and our families. I pray that children will today, by your grace listen to their parents whether they are young or old. I pray that our children will choose today to invest in Truth and never sell it no matter what the cost. I pray that the children in Elk Point Baptist Church will today make their fathers truly happy by living right and showing sound judgment. May they fill their parents with great joy by responding obediently to the Gospel truths that are faithfully imparted to them. I ask this for the glory of Jesus and the joy of our families. Amen.*

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