

## **The Wise Parent:** *Parenting in Reference to God*

### 1. Warm-up questions:

- What are some common cultural beliefs about parenting or parental duties?
- What are some common motivations for “discipline”?
- From our culture’s perspective, why do children need discipline? How does this compare to the Christian worldview?
- Is there such a thing as a morally or religiously “neutral” education?

### Main Idea

Christian parents are given the solemn command and sacred privilege to train and instruct their children in how to live in reference to God.  
*This will involve theological training and life-skill education.*

### 2. Key Texts:

- Proverbs 22:6 “Train a child up” ...
  - What does this text teach about a parent’s responsibility?
  - What is the “way he should go”? How has this been understood by some?
  - What is the focus of this training?
  - What areas of life does this instruction cover?
  - Is this a promise?
- Proverbs 1:8-9 “Listen... to your father’s instruction... to your mother’s teaching”
  - Who does this passage say is responsible for instruction?
  - Upon whom does this responsibility typically fall?
  - What does the command to “listen” imply?
  - What does verse 9 say about the value of this instruction?
    - What might tempt us to diminish the value of this instruction?
    - What are some potential responses when the value gets diminished?
- Ephesians 6:1-4 “Children, obey your parents.... Fathers... bring them up in the discipline and instruction (admonition) of the Lord”
  - What is the expectation placed on children in this text?
  - What does this imply about parental responsibility?
  - What are some of the obstacles that might keep parents from fulfilling this duty?
  - Upon whom does the primary responsibility fall?
  - What are children to be brought up in? What does this mean?
  - What is the difference between “discipline” and “admonition”?
- Deuteronomy 6:4-9
  - When do parents do this?
  - How do parents do this?
    - How has it been done historically?
    - What obstacles make this difficult for parents today?
    - What will be required for a faithful effort?