

“My son, obey your father’s commands, and don’t neglect your mother’s instruction. Proverbs 6:23 NLT

## lectio // Proverbs 6:20-35

Parents lay down a fundamental foundation for their own life as well as the children they raise. Proverbs instructs how important it is to listen and to learn from the wisdom of your parents. Is this wisdom only valuable when parents are believers or only when they are God-followers? I know many parents who teach truth and good, strong values, yet they are not believers. I tried my best to glean “wisdom” and practical values to build my own life. When I was younger, it was difficult to see the “positive” aspects of my parents. I had to strain a little harder to find and focus on these positive traits. And, then much of the values they wanted to teach or leave for me were lost in the chaotic and oftentimes unsafe environment that was our home, our “ways” of doing life. This also made it harder to believe and follow the rest of this proverb, “For their command is a lamp and their instruction a light; their corrective discipline is the way to life.” Because, for the longest time, their command was NOT a light nor a corrective discipline. And, because I was not able to understand and process my parents “good” values, many of them were lost or had negative effects on my world view, especially when it came to the hard questions in my life. What is man supposed to behave like? What kind of man am I? What is a man supposed to behave like in a work environment, marriage or parenting? I had no time to reflect, there were little “good” memories or models that came to mind when I needed them most. Now that I am older, more mature and have had time to process, I can find and even celebrate those values my parents (all five of them!) tried to instill in me. I hope and trust that we (Robin and I) have been able to not only establish values that give light and discipline to our (now adult) children, but that we have them an environment of safety, love and consistency that allowed them to feel more confident in building their own lives and answering their own questions of who they are in life, work and relationships. Our youngest daughter now has her own daughter and our oldest son and wife are pregnant with their first. Now, we’ll see just how true this proverb really is!

Dad,

Parenting, heck living a full, worthy life, is not for the faint hearted! It requires far more than I could have possibly understood when I was young and far more wonderful than I could have imagined.

Thank you.

**contemplatio**

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root