

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** Your Child: Wise or Otherwise

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Proverbs 1:20-22

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #1499

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide this outline produced from a sermon preached by Adrian Rogers while serving as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. This outline is intended for your personal, non-commercial use.

In order to ensure our ability to be good stewards of Adrian Rogers' messages, Love Worth Finding has reserved all rights to this content.

Except for your personal, non-commercial use and except for brief quotations in printed reviews, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other—without the prior permission of the publisher.

Copyright ©2023 Love Worth Finding Ministries, Inc.

1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The devil is letting loose with all of the artillery of Hell against our homes.
  - i) The devil knows that if he can hurt us at home, then he has hurt us all over.
- b) Satan is the greatest home wrecker.
- c) Jesus Christ is the greatest home builder.
- d) Satan wants to bring discord into our homes.
- e) Jesus wants to bring harmony into our homes.
- f) It has been said that we spend the first half of our lives fighting with our parents and the last half of our lives fighting with our children.
  - i) That is not the way that God intended it.
- g) We have to realize that something is drastically wrong.
  - i) We are a needy generation.
  - ii) There are children in prison.
  - iii) Many children live in broken homes.
  - iv) Children between the ages of seven and eleven have been given or are receiving psychiatric help.
  - v) Many teenage girls between the ages of twelve and seventeen will get pregnant and deliver a baby.
    - (1) This does not count the pregnancies that will end in abortion.
  - vi) Teenagers are being infected with venereal disease.
  - vii) Many children will contemplate or try suicide.
    - (1) Something is desperately and drastically wrong.
- h) God has given us a special book in the Bible, the book of Proverbs, that tells us how to raise wise children.
  - i) Proverbs 1:20-22
    - (1) Another phrase for “simple ones” is “gullible teenagers.”
    - (2) Another phrase for “scorners” is “smart alecks.”
    - (3) Another word for “fools” is “rebels.”
    - (4) First, he mentions the simple.
    - (5) Then, he mentions the scorner.
    - (6) And then, he mentions the fool.
      - (a) There is a definite progression here.
      - (b) This is the evolution of a fool.
  - i) No fool ever begins as a fool.
    - i) Fools are self-made with a lot of help from the parents.
    - ii) A child begins, as what the Bible calls, as simple.
    - iii) If the simple child is not dealt with, then he becomes a scorner.
    - iv) If the scorner is not dealt with, he then becomes a fool.
      - (1) Once he becomes a fool, there is hardly any help or hope for him.
  - j) In today’s message, we will look at what God shows us in His Word about how to raise a wise child.
    - i) We will look at how to begin with a child when he is what the Bible calls simple and how to keep him from becoming a scorner and a fool.

2) THE GULLIBLE TEENAGER (PROVERBS 1:22)

- a) The Bible calls him a simple person.
  - i) This has nothing to do with his mental ability.
  - ii) Many people who were once simple are now surgeons, lawyers, doctors, or ministers.
  - iii) The word “simple” here comes from a root word which simply means “open.”
    - (1) This is a person who is gullible or naïve.
      - (a) That is the way teenagers are.
- b) He loves simplicity.
  - i) Proverbs 1:22
  - ii) He loves being a carefree, happy teenager.
  - iii) He does not want to think about anything serious.
  - iv) Teenagers enjoy having it easy.
- c) He lacks understanding.
  - i) Proverbs 9:1-4
    - (1) This literally means “the one who lacks understanding.”
  - ii) He may be intelligent, but he does not have understanding.
    - (1) This refers to spiritual wisdom and insight from God’s Word.
- d) He is led easily.
  - i) Proverbs 14:15
    - (1) This is one of the greatest dangers that all teenagers face.
    - (2) The simple believes every word.
  - ii) He is a sitting duck for marketing, humanism, false religion, and sinful friends.
  - iii) He is open and naïve.
  - iv) He is going to believe something, whether it is right or wrong.
  - v) The power of peer-pressure, public opinion, and how people want to conform to what other people are doing is incredible.
    - (1) This is especially true about teenagers.
- e) He is living in danger.
  - i) Proverbs 22:3
    - (1) This is a chilling verse for the simple.
  - ii) A wise man can look down the road and prepare for the future, or he can see danger and get out of the way.
    - (1) But not the simpleton.
      - (a) This does not mean that he is stupid.
        - (i) He just cannot think about danger.
      - (b) That is the reason teenagers are liable to drink and drive.
        - (i) They cannot see the danger.
        - (ii) They cannot think out ahead.
- f) This is what the Bible calls the simple, and the world is full of them.
  - i) They are not bad kids; they are just simple.

- ii) They need to be taught.
  - iii) They need to be given wisdom.
- 3) THE SCORNER (PROVERBS 1:22)
- a) If the gullible teenager (the simple) is not taught, then he becomes a scorners.
  - b) The scorners delight in their scorning.
    - i) What is a scorners?
      - (1) In school, he is called a smart aleck.
      - (2) In business, he is called a cynic.
      - (3) In the university, he is called a scoffer.
        - (a) But they are all the same person, and the world is full of them.
    - ii) They are hard to reach for the Gospel.
    - iii) 2 Peter 3:3
    - iv) They have the devil's initials carved in their hearts, and their lives are covered with the fingerprints of sin.
    - v) They are the devil's delight.
  - c) They defy instruction.
    - i) It is easy to teach a simple child, but it is hard to teach a scorners.
    - ii) Proverbs 13:1
    - iii) Once a child becomes a scorners, his ability to learn is difficult because he has a hardened attitude.
    - iv) You can tell a scorners, but you cannot tell him much.
      - (1) He will tune you out.
      - (2) He has ears, but he will not hear.
      - (3) When you talk to a scorners, it is like talking to a brick wall.
  - d) He despises the good and the godly.
    - i) Proverbs 15:12
    - ii) Don't expect a scorners to ask for help and advice.
    - iii) He does not love the person who gives him advice.
    - iv) If you try to straighten out a scorners, then he will look at you as if he hates you.
      - (1) You rebuke him; he will insult you.
        - (a) Proverbs 9:7-8
    - v) He feels that the good and the godly are his enemies.
      - (1) He hates his teachers, his parents, his pastor, and his Sunday school teacher.
  - e) He is destined for destruction.
    - i) Proverbs 13:1
      - (1) He will not listen.
    - ii) Proverbs 13:13
      - (1) As a result, he will be destroyed.
    - iii) He can laugh his way into Hell, but he will not laugh his way out once he gets there.
  - f) Yet, even for the scorners, there is some hope.

- g) The scorner is so much harder to reach than the simple.
- 4) THE REBEL (PROVERBS 1:22)
- a) This is who the Bible calls the fool.
    - i) The simple and the scorner are known by what they love, but the fool is known by what he hates.
    - ii) The fool hates wisdom.
  - b) He rejects wisdom.
    - i) Proverbs 1:7
    - ii) You cannot get through to him.
    - iii) Proverbs 15:5
    - iv) He literally hates it.
  - c) He ridicules righteousness.
    - i) Proverbs 14:9
    - ii) Almost all of our entertainment mocks sin, especially the seventh commandment.
      - (1) Exodus 20:14
    - iii) A fool displays his foolishness by mocking sin.
  - d) He rejoices in iniquity.
    - i) Proverbs 15:20-21
    - ii) He actually loves his iniquity.
      - (1) It is a joy to him.
    - iii) His moral sense is so destroyed, he is so perverted, that he cannot tell the difference between good and bad.
      - (1) Isaiah 5:20
  - e) He is reserved for Hell.
    - i) Proverbs 17:10
    - ii) We cannot change him.
      - (1) Once he becomes a fool, it seems as though he has crossed the deadline.
    - iii) Don't stop praying for him, and maybe God in mercy will save him.
- 5) HOW TO DEAL WITH THE SIMPLE (PROVERBS 1:1-4)
- a) Start early.
    - i) Start with a child before he is born, and give him to the Lord.
      - (1) Then, continue wisely.
    - ii) How can the tragedy of a child becoming a fool be avoided?
      - (1) Start with the simple when he is young.
      - (2) God has given us the Bible to teach this child.
    - iii) Dr. Paul Meyers wisely said that there are five keys to being the right kind of parent:
      - (1) Love
      - (2) Discipline
      - (3) Constancy

- (4) Example
- (5) Headship
  - (a) All of these are involved in raising a child.
- b) One of the chief ways that the simple learn is by example.
  - i) He is open, and whatever example is set before him makes the greatest impression on him.
  - ii) Proverbs 19:25
    - (1) This is a key verse.
    - (2) It does not say to smite the simpleton, but to smite the scorner.
  - iii) Proverbs 21:11
  - iv) The simpleton, more than anything else, needs to see the scorner punished.
    - (1) He needs to understand that he cannot sin with impunity and get away with it.
  - v) When a child sees someone else punished, it has a great effect on him.
  - vi) The worst thing that could happen to teenagers is to have a permissive society where they do not see sin quickly punished.
    - (1) Ecclesiastes 8:11
    - (2) Teenagers need to be shown the wages of sin clearly and plainly.
      - (a) They need to see the scorner being smitten.
  - vii) Let him see clearly and plainly.
    - (1) He doesn't understand; he thinks he's invincible.
    - (2) Proverbs 22:3
    - (3) Let him see the wages of sin.
- c) Guard his company.
  - i) Help him to avoid scorners and fools, smart alecks and rebels.
  - ii) Proverbs 13:20
    - (1) If you let your child run with fools, then he will be destroyed.
    - (2) Don't let your child link up with a rebel.
  - iii) Proverbs 22:10
    - (1) Fools and scorners don't need to be in company with the simple.
      - (a) If you let your naïve, gullible teenager get with fools and scorners, then before long he will become one.
      - (b) Don't let them corrupt your child.
      - (c) Teenagers are especially susceptible to peer pressure, whether it is good or bad.
    - (2) Cast out the scorner.
    - (3) A scorner should not be allowed to disrupt a school.
      - (a) Don't let him corrupt the whole class.
    - (4) The Bible doesn't say to cast him off but to cast him out.
      - (a) There is a difference.
    - (5) There are people in churches who want to disrupt the church.
      - (a) We are to cast them out.
  - iv) Help him select his friends.

- (1) Make your house a haven for his friends.
  - (2) Let your home be the happiest place on Earth.
  - (3) Let him know that you love him and that you love his friends.
    - (a) But at the same time, you are watching his friends.
      - (i) Cast out the scorner and the rebel.
  - v) See to it that the best people are invited into your home.
    - (1) Have notable and wise people as guests at dinner.
      - (a) Let your kids be seated at the table, listening and learning.
      - (b) That is the way they are going to learn.
- 6) HOW TO DEAL WITH THE SCORNER (PROVERBS 9:7-8)
- a) Remember that scolding and lecturing a scorner does very little good.
    - i) Reproving a scorner does little, if any, good.
    - ii) Proverbs 15:12
    - iii) Scolding will probably increase his ability to sin.
      - (1) Matthew 7:6
    - iv) You need to talk less and pray and love more.
      - (1) Then, wait for an open door.
      - (2) Proverbs 15:23
  - b) When you have a rebellious teenager, surround that teenager with your love.
  - c) Let him know where you stand on these issues.
    - i) Don't constantly be rebuking him, but be loving and pray.
      - (1) As you pray, God will open his heart at the right moment.
  - d) Do not shield him from the results of his sin.
    - i) Don't pamper him or facilitate him in his wickedness.
    - ii) Do not shield him from punishment.
    - iii) Proverbs 19:25
      - (1) If he does not learn from his punishment, then others will learn.
      - (2) This does not necessarily mean to smite him physically.
        - (a) There's more than one way to show him what the wages of his sin are.
  - e) Refuse to let him corrupt others.
    - i) Proverbs 22:10
    - ii) Don't let him ruin everything.
- 7) CONCLUSION
- a) If you are a hurting parent, then God understands just how you feel because He lost his children, too.
  - b) God created some children, and He gave them everything they needed.
    - i) No one can say that He didn't raise them right.
    - ii) No one can say that He didn't love them.
    - iii) No one can say that He didn't spend time with them.
    - iv) No one can say that He didn't carefully teach them.

- v) He warned them that their future depended upon their choices, yet they did wrong.
  - (1) God made them human beings, and God gave them a choice.
  - (2) A bad influence came from the outside, and by their own choice and free will, they rebelled against a loving Father.
    - (a) Genesis 3:1-6
- c) You can be a good parent and lose a child.
- d) Proverbs 22:6
  - i) This is a proverb and a principle.
- e) Even reading the Bible, you will see a hurting parent.
  - i) God is in the same place that you are.
  - ii) God is agonizingly watching your children hurt themselves and hurt others.
  - iii) Yet, God refuses to step in and make them machines.
    - (1) He will not do it.
    - (2) He will not do it with you, either.
      - (a) God is looking down from Heaven right now at some grown, rebellious children.
        - (i) And He is stretching out His hands, and He is saying, "Come to Me."
- f) With so many forces pulling at our children, may the Lord help us to be wise parents to raise wise children.
- g) Are you a wise child of God, or are you rebelling against Him?
- h) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- i) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16