

According to the proverb, here is something to greatly rejoice about! Solomon speaks of an enthusiastic delight, a deep gladness. After all, our greatest joys usually arise from good results where we have made our greatest investment. Godly parents have made an immense investment of time and love into the lives of their children. When something that costs us much comes out well, we don't just rejoice; we greatly rejoice! When someone we love more than our own lives turns out blest, we don't just rejoice; we greatly rejoice! To know that such a son is among the righteous is as good as it gets!

For all the good we wish for our children, nothing compares in scope to this. What has a man gained if he obtains the whole world but loses his soul? What will he give in exchange for his soul? Take just one area: If your child becomes a righteous man or woman, then this is true: "For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and His ears attend to their prayer; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil" (1 Peter 3:12). What can your sons or daughters gain if God is against them? And, in fact, anything they do gain, God can use against them, to their ruin! Just as we see that people who resist God often gain a lot of "things," a young person who gains talents can become self-sufficient and arrogant. His material gains can transform him into an idolater, attaining to great honor and advancement and becoming self-destructively proud.

To have God [against] our children is the most horrendous thought conceivable.

But if God is [for] your children, and His ears hear their prayers, who can

be against them effectively? "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31) Do you realize that the [us] in that verse does not apply to everyone? It applies only to the people God is for. And you want your child to be one of those. What can effectively harm those whom God is committed to bless? So all our wishes for their safety and blessing are fulfilled when they are wise. What could compare to the gladness for the parents of such a one?! The joy any parents have over their child, no matter how great that joy is already, is multiplied beyond comprehension when the child is living in pursuit of righteousness as a disciple of the Lord Jesus! And a tie of eternal fellowship in Christ is added to the natural ties of family unity - a tie which is never to be severed.

If your child's eternal safety would make you glad, dear parent, then invest in that which will give you that fruit! Why fill their minds only with tools to equip them to succeed in life, in the very same departments that the world invests in its children, if what we really want is righteousness? Paul wrote in Romans 14:17,

having enough to eat and drink and wear. It's having the righteousness of God, peace with God, and joy from God!

Succeeding economically in life doesn't compare. Your child's having enough to take care of you financially in old age doesn't compare. Giving us good-looking and healthy grandchildren doesn't compare. Nothing compares! And so it is natural that, in the proverb, Solomon would next say, "Give me your heart, my son, and let your heart delight in my ways!" This is the lofty calling for which a godly parent appeals to his children!

Many forces clamor for the heart. Heaven and hell contend constantly for it. But the passion and affection of this language - "give me your heart, my son" - is the tone of a father who longs that his children never withdraw into secrecy from him, that the doors of communication remain open, so father and mother always have access to steadily urge them to be seeking Christ first, without that feeling of being "locked out" of their hearts but welcomed there. We should never al-

The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice; he who fathers a wise son will be glad in him. Let your father and mother be glad; let her who bore you rejoice. My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways.

*Proverbs 13:24-26*

"For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" - the worthiest goals in life, under God's rule, are much grander in scope than

low an emotional wall to be built up against us. We should be working at creating an atmosphere at home in which they know it is welcome, even desirable, to ask us about God's ways.