



## COMFORT OR GRIEF THAT PARENTS HAVE IN THEIR CHILDREN

**10:1; 15:20; 17:21, 25; 19:13, 26; 23:15, 16, 24, 25; 27:11; 29:3**

These proverbs deal with the subject of parents and their children and the happiness or sorrow that children can bring to parents. Some of the brightest joys and some of the most bitter of sorrows in this world flow from the hearts of parents on behalf of their children. For this reason *Solomon* pleads with and instructs his son in the first nine chapters of the book [1:8, 10, 15; 2:1; 3:1, 11, 21; 4:10, 20; 5:1, 20; 6:1, 3, 20; 7:1]. *Solomon* expresses the desire of a godly parent *“My son, be wise, and make my heart glad”* [27:11].

*“A wise son maketh a glad father, but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother”* [10:1].

Two types of sons are mentioned; *“a wise son”* and *“a foolish son”*. The *“wise son”* is one who listens to the godly instruction and counsel of godly parents [2:1-4; 3:1; 4:1-2; 5:1-2; 7:1-3]. A *“wise son”* is one who fears the Lord, and flees temptation, and patterns his life after *Christ*. Such a son brings great joy and gladness to a parent. The godly parent shares in the minister’s joy to see his children walk in truth [II John 4; III John 4]. On the other hand, *“A foolish son is the heaviness (sadness, sorrow, burden) of his mother”*. A *“foolish son”* is the one who disregards the instruction and counsel of godly parents! A *“foolish son”* is one who has no fear of the Lord, and walks not in the ways of the Lord, and as a result falls into many destructive sins. Such a son is a source of *“heaviness”* to the godly parent, and is burdensome.

*“A wise son maketh a glad father; but a foolish son despiseth his mother”* [15:20].

Once again, a contrast is drawn between a *“wise son”* and a *“foolish son”* and the affects that they have upon their parents. A *“wise son”* is a source of gladness, pleasure, delight, and gratefulness, while a *“foolish son despiseth (thinks little of, to set at nought, to regard lightly, to reject) his mother”*. The *“foolish son”* disregards and lives contrary to wise parental instruction and counsel, and in so doing dishonors the parent.

*“He that begetteth a fool doeth it to his sorrow: and the father of a fool hath no joy”* [17:21].

When a child is born, and as a child grows, that child is an object of great hope and expectation to a godly parent. A godly parent raises that child in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and trains them to walk in the ways of the Lord, and prays earnestly that the child will be pleasing to the Lord. But if that child departs from its rearing, that child causes great sorrow of heart to a godly parent. The godly parent mourns and grieves over such a child. The phrase *“the father of a fool hath no joy”* is expressive of the degree of sorrow that a godly parent experiences as the result of a rebellious and ungodly child.

*“A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him” [17:25].*

The word “***grief***” means “*a heavy and deep sorrow of heart*” It is a word that speaks of ***misery***, ***anguish***, and ***heartache***. The word “***bitterness***” means “*that which is distressing to the mind, that which is intensely unpleasant, that which brings severe pain*” A child that lives in sin, to the disregard of the righteous training and instruction of godly parents brings much grief and bitterness of heart to the godly parent.

*“A foolish son is the calamity of his father” [19:13].*

The word “***calamity***” has reference to that which “*causes great damage and distress*” It is a word that speaks of ***loss*** and ***ruin!*** The child that disregards and rebels against godly instruction and counsel brings a “***calamity***” that earthly riches and honor cannot alleviate. That which causes the most ***distress*** and ***misery*** in a godly parent concerning their children is not that which is physical or material, but that which is sinful and rebellious against God.

*“He that wasteth his father, and chaseth away his mother; is a son that causeth shame, and bringeth reproach” [19:26].*

The son here described is the one who wastes his father’s estate by wicked and sinful living, and causes his own mother to avoid her child. Such a child causes “***shame***” (disgrace, humiliation, and embarrassment) to the parent, and to himself and brings “***reproach***” (disapproval and discredit) to the parent and to himself.

*“The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him. Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice” [23:24-25].*

The hope of godly parents is that their children would be saved (made righteous in Christ), and that they would then live righteous lives for the Lord. This is not only the hope of a godly parent, but it brings them great joy of heart to see their children living for the Lord and serving Him.

*“Whoso loveth wisdom rejoiceth his father: but he that keepeth company with harlots spendeth his substance” [29:3].*

The son who loves wisdom hates and avoids wickedness, and is careful with whom he keeps company, and this rejoices the heart of a godly parent. On the other hand, is the son “***that keepeth company with harlots***” and is a grief to his parents.

These proverbs speak of the great concern that godly parents have for their children. These proverbs speak of the fact that a child that lives in sin, disregarding the righteous training and instruction of godly parents brings much grief and bitterness of heart to the godly parent [II Samuel 18:33]. Christian parents can judge their own spiritual condition, by examining what gives them joy and what causes them sorrow concerning their children.

