

Instruction – Pt6 & final–Instruction from the cradle to the grave

This is our six and final study on the topic of “instruction”. In the previous study we encouraged you to (1) receive God’s words (His instruction), (2) cry after His instruction, and (3) seek His instruction. In this study we establish (1) children are to hear instruction from their parents, (2) children of God hear instruction from their heavenly Father, because (3) the reproofs of instruction are the ways of life.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. Children are to hear the instruction of their parents.

“My son, hear the instruction of thy father” (Prov.1: 8). See also Prov.4: 1 and 13: 1.

“A fool despiseth his father's instruction...” (Prov.15: 5). “Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err...” (Prov.19: 27).

2. Children of God hear instruction from their Heavenly Father.

“He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God” (Jn.8: 47). See also Isa 8:11, 28:26, 40:14, and Ps.32: 8

Follow the example of Christ who heard the instruction of His Father (Jn.15: 15).

3. Because the reproofs of instruction are the ways of life.

“For the commandment is a lamp; and the law [is] light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life” (Prov.6: 23).

“The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands...” (Tit.2: 3 & 4).

Illustration to help apply our teaching to our life

As a young lad growing up at home with Mum and Dad I remember hearing the words – “you do not listen” (hence I did not hear the instruction of my parents). As an apprentice electrician I remember not hearing the instruction of the registered electricians, and then when I was qualified I could not read electrical drawings.

Question to think about.

There is one occurrence of the phrase “well pleasing” and it is used in the context of children hearing and submitting to the instruction of their parents (Col 3:20). Why?

Our answer from the scriptures.

For a person to become a child of God they must hear the instruction of their Heavenly Father, and believe and receive the gospel of Christ–crucified, and then once a child of God we are required to receive His instruction from His word. Therefore, if a child grows up in a modern–day family environment where they bring themselves up they do not learn to hear the instruction of their parents (Prov.29: 15), nor God who calls all men everywhere to repent. Hence, they grow up a fool – that despise instruction.

Therefore it is well–pleasing to God when a child hears their parents instruction, as they will be set for life to grow in wisdom and receive the reproofs of the instruction of God. Therefore on our journey from the cradle to the grave we are to hear instruction, and share instruction from the scriptures to one another, because the reproofs of instruction are the ways of life. Amen!