**As for Me and My House – Pr. 23:26, Col.3:21**

**Focal Truth: Godly parents care for their children’s souls as they maintain a lifelong relationship of trust with them**

Did you know that the heart of your children is the most important aspect of their being?

Have your children given their heart to you? Do they trust you? Do they desire for you to know their burdens, pains & troubles?

1. **Godly parents know the importance of childlike trust – 23:26**

*Give me your heart my son…or my child give me your trust*

1. What is the heart in scripture?

Mind, the will, the emotions, & the desires – the heart is the place of trust

1. There is foolishness in the heart of a child’s heart – foolish = folly, lack of good sense

Foolishness in words, deeds & thoughts

Foolishness in decisions & relationships

1. Godly parents know they must watch over the foolish hearts of their children

23:15 -16 – My son, if your heart is wise, my own heart will be glad

23:17 – my son, do not let your heart envy sinners – live in the fear of the Lord

23:19 – listen my son, be wise, direct your heart in the way – (way of righteousness)

Foolishness is in the heart of every child – Pr. 22:15 – foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child, the rod of discipline will remove it far from him

Foolishness in the heart of a child is sinfulness – Pr. 24:9 – the devising of foolishness is sin

Foolishness in the heart of a child leads them astray – Pr. 5:23 he will die for lack of instruction and in the greatness of his foolishness he will go astray

From the heart life decisions are made – Pr. 4:23 – from the heart flow the issues of life

1. **Godly parents passionately seek to maintain a relationship of trust with their children Pr. 23:26**

*Give me your heart my son -* ***A mother understands what a child does not say – Jewish proverb***

***All children long for a relationship of trust with their parents***

***All children begin trusting their parents but many lose their trust in their parents***

***How do parents maintain a relationship of trust with their children? Not by words but by deeds***

1. Children will trust their parents who bless & love them

Gen. 27:30– Isaac blessed Jacob

Gen 48:20 – so Jacob blessed the boys (children of Joseph) that day with this blessing…

Gen. 27:38 - Esau pleaded with his father, oh, my father, bless me, too! Then Esau broke down and wept

**Children desperately need the family blessing from their fathers & mothers**

1. Children will trust their parents who lovingly discipline them 22:15 – rod of disciplines will remove it

Col. 3:21 – Fathers, do not exasperate your children so that they will not lose heart aythemeo – disheartened, broken spirit

Pr. 17:22 – a joyful spirit is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones

Pr. 18:14 – the spirit of a man can endure sickness, but as for a broken spirit who can bear it?

1. Children will trust their parents who passionately appeal to them 4:3 – 4 – when I was a son to my father, tender and the only son in the sight of my mother, then he taught me and said to me, let your heart hold fast to my words, keep my commandments and live
2. Children will trust their parents who willingly spend time with them 4:3 – when I was a son tender…then my father taught me

Deut.6:20 – when your son asks you in time to come saying, what do the testimonies & statutes & the judgments mean which the Lord God commanded you?...then you will say…it will be righteousness for us if we are careful to observe all this commandment before the Lord our God, just as He commanded us

1. Children will trust their parents who live in godliness before them 23:26 – let your eyes delight in my ways – **children can trust godly parents!**
2. **Godly parents are blessed by their relationship of trust with their children**
3. Trusting children listen to godly parents 23:22 – Listen to your father who begot you
4. There is great joy when children trust their parents & listen to them 23:24 -25
5. Children who trust their parents counsel are protected from harmful & foolish sins sexual sin & drunkenness – two examples – 23:27 – 28, 29 -35
6. **Godly parents lead their children to trust in Jesus Christ as Lord & Savior**
7. John 14:6 - The Lord Jesus said I am way, the truth and the life no one comes to the Father but by me

**Things to Remember**

1. Godly parents passionately seek the trust of their children
2. Foolish hearted children need the care of godly parents who love them
3. When a child’s heart is won it brings joy to the parents & children
4. Leading our children to give their hearts to Jesus Christ is the greatest of joys
5. All children long to give their hearts to someone
6. When you spend time with your children, your children will ask you questions about God & His word.

**Daily Use – Family Challenges**

1. As parents, ask yourselves, do our children trust us?
2. As parents, ask yourselves, how can we restore trust in our relationship with our children?
3. Talk with your children about who they trust most
4. Tell your children that you can always trust in Jesus Christ