

Proverbs 15:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent.

Analysis

A fool despises his father's instruction, but he that regards reproof is prudent. Fools reject paternal teaching; wise persons heed correction. The verb 'despise' (na'ats) suggests contempt, active rejection. In contrast, regarding reproof demonstrates prudence (aram - shrewdness, sensibility). This verse makes receptivity to correction the defining difference between wisdom and folly. Pride rejects instruction; humility receives it.

Historical Context

Reflects patriarchal family structure where fathers bore primary responsibility for sons' education. Rejecting such instruction wasn't merely foolish but dishonored parents and violated covenant community.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do you respond to correction from authority figures - with contempt or prudence?
2. What makes you resistant to reproof that you need to embrace?

Interlinear Text

תָּרָכְתָּה יִשְׂמַח רַב אֵל יְנַצֵּחַ מִזְרָח רַב אָבִיךָ
A fool despiseth instruction his father's but he that regardeth reproof
H191 H5006 H4148 H1 H8104 H8433

יעַמְּךָ
is prudent
H6191

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 13:18 (Parallel theme): Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured.

Proverbs 13:1 (Parallel theme): A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke.

Proverbs 19:20 (Parallel theme): Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

1 Chronicles 28:9 (Parallel theme): And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

1 Chronicles 28:20 (Parallel theme): And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.

Titus 2:15 (Parallel theme): These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

Titus 1:13 (Parallel theme): This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;

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