



Studies in the Book of Proverbs by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

(#12) A Father’s Wisdom: Learn From Your Parents’ Experiences 4:10-19

Verses 10-13: Listen to your father and live longer ([Deuteronomy 5:16](#); [Ephesians 6:1-3](#)). This, of course, assumes that a son knows who his father is, and that his father has learned from his own experiences that God’s Way is right. Now is the time for the father to teach “the way of wisdom,” which only leads “in right paths.” Wisdom’s way is unhampered and unimpeded, so that it’s perfectly safe to “walk” with no worry about difficulty, or “run” without tripping. God says it, human experience confirms it, and the wise are people who conform to it. Embrace Wisdom with the permanence of a marriage made in Heaven ([Matthew 19:4-6](#)), for “she *is* your life.”

Verses 14-17: “The path” to avoid and the company not to keep! The morals which help a son make a decision should have already been taught by the father, so that this is an exhortation for the son to make the better decision. To avoid “the path of the wicked,” one should “not enter” it. Don’t start on the path, don’t “walk,” or progress, on that path. Stay off of it altogether. Don’t “travel” on it. “Turn away from it” means simply, act like it’s not even an alternate choice. The people who are taking that path are so devoted to evil, that they can’t sleep “unless they have done evil,” that could include making someone “fall,” that is, not a day goes by without evil deeds. They eat and drink (live for) “wickedness” and “violence,” which means they will resort to anything and everything to do evil and have no limits.

Verses 18-19: Dare to compare the difference between “the just” and “the wicked.” Literally, this choice is the difference between day and night, it is so obvious. If more fathers would only see that their sons knew the difference, more sons would choose rightly. How’s the idea that “kids should make up their own minds without parents telling them what’s right or wrong” working for you? Sunshine cannot be missed, and a “perfect day” includes it, exactly the same as choosing “the path of the just” would make every day a “perfect day.” Wandering throughout nighttime “darkness” means a person has no plan, learning experience, or goal in life, because they never find out “what makes them stumble.” Too many fathers live their lives like this with alcohol and other drugs, sex, violence, gangs, irresponsibility, and they have experience but no wisdom. Not learning from our experiences that there is another, better way, is stupid.

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