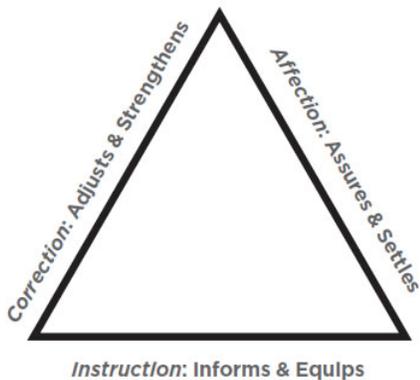


<b>SERIES:</b>	Father's Day Messages
<b>MESSAGE:</b>	<b>A Father's Triangle</b>
<b>SPEAKER:</b>	Skip Heitzig
<b>SCRIPTURE:</b>	Proverbs 3:11-12

## MESSAGE SUMMARY

A triangle is a shape with three sides. It is one of the basic forms in geometry. All three sides are essential to the overall shape. So, too, is the role of a father in the life and well-being of a child. Our text in Proverbs 3 today shows the simple yet balanced direction for dads to go when it comes to their involvement with their children. Below is Proverbs 3:11-12 in visual form.



## DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
  - A. The older we grow, the more we appreciate the wisdom of our fathers
  - B. On the other hand, Father's Day is not pleasant for some people
  - C. Solomon wrote the book of Proverbs
    1. He also wrote Psalm 127
    2. Children are God's best gifts (see Psalm 127:3)
  - D. Dads do not own their children; they are borrowed from God
    1. Fathers bring shape to a child's life
    2. Since kids are the only thing we can take to heaven, it behooves us to do it right
- II. A Father's Instruction
  - A. Proverbs is an instruction manual given by a father to train his children (see Proverbs 3:1-4; 4:1; 5:1)
    1. Instructions for life
    2. Not a book for philosophers to ponder; a book for parents to practice
    3. Though it is an Old Testament book, it is loved by New Testament believers
    4. Written by Solomon
      - a. He was very wise
      - b. He wrote 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs

- I. His only surviving song is Song of Solomon
  - II. It must have been his best one
- 5. Written in poetry form
  - a. To make it easy to memorize
  - b. A short saying that takes the place of a long sermon
- 6. Found in the New Testament as well
  - a. Ephesians 5-6 is about family roles
  - b. Fathers are not to provoke their children (see Ephesians 6:4)
  - c. They are to move their children toward maturity
    - I. In instruction
    - II. In admonition of the Lord
- B. *Horim* = parents
  - 1. *Moreh* = teacher
  - 2. Share the same root word
  - 3. A parent is the first teacher in a child's life
- C. In Hebrew households in ancient times, the education in a child's first three years was primarily done by the mother
  - 1. After that, the education was taken over by the father
  - 2. He would teach his son a trade and the laws of God
  - 3. The mother would train her daughter in domestic duties
  - 4. The training of children should be part of normal life (see Deuteronomy 6:6-7)
- D. What should fathers bring their children up to be or do?
  - 1. There is always to be a spiritual component
  - 2. Show your children what it means to be a Christian
  - 3. Share the gospel with your children
  - 4. A father is a partner with God in making disciples of his children
- III. A Father's Correction
  - A. Correction is proof a father loves his child
    - 1. When we ask God to take away our suffering, we are asking Him to love us less
    - 2. Whom the Lord loves, He corrects
  - B. Love your children enough to correct them
    - 1. God is always prepared to deal with the errant behavior of His children
    - 2. Dads, be ready for anything and meet it with fair discipline
    - 3. Proverbs 13:24; 19:18
  - C. You do not show love by overlooking discipline
    - 1. It is the correction you add to your children's lives that gets them to a place where they can be who God wants them to be
    - 2. The lack of corporal punishment can emotionally cripple a child for life
    - 3. A father's firm, fair, and consistent discipline is a factor that prevents juvenile delinquency
  - D. Two types of discipline
    - I. Corrective
      - a. Physical discipline
      - b. Must be done in a timely manner
      - c. Begin in the formative years
      - d. Requires tools
        - I. Hands are reserved for affirmation and embrace

- II. A rod (see Proverbs 13:24)
    - III. Shebet = rod, staff, club
    - IV. Something that is flexible but separate from the body
  - 2. Preventative
    - a. Playing, praying, and giving undivided attention
    - b. Show them they are important
- IV. A Father's Affection
  - A. Brings stability into a child's life
    - 1. Ratsah = to be pleased with, accept favorably
    - 2. Delight
  - B. A father's love is central to the emotional well-being of a child
  - C. Why is so much laid on dads?
    - 1. A child's view of God is formed by their father
      - a. The first father a child knows is their earthly father
      - b. God is the only perfect parent, but a child will associate the term *father* with their own dad
    - 2. Daughters need to know what to look for in a future husband
    - 3. Sons need to know what a real man is
- V. Closing
  - A. It's easier to prepare a child than to repair an adult
  - B. A hundred years from now, the world could be a better place because of how you raised your children

**Figures referenced:** Tom Landry, C.S. Lewis, Charles Spurgeon

**Hebrew words:** horim, moreh, ratsah, shebet

**Cross references:** Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Psalm 127; Proverbs 3:1-4; 4:1; 5:1; 13:24; 19:18; Ephesians 6:4

**Topic:** Fathers

**Keywords:** wisdom, Father's Day, Proverbs, fathers, fatherhood, children, parents, teaching, correction, discipline, corporal punishment, father's love