

SOP: Setting a Course for Maturity

- Because God is Sovereign—we are created with freewill. It is in the wise use of our freewill, that we grow in wisdom and understanding
- I have taught on stewarding our freewill—it was meant to be learned in relationship. When we learn this—we know how to walk in the Spirit.
- **Luke 2:52: And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.**

The Goal of our Instruction:

Proverbs 1:2

- **to know wisdom** (know=yada=to be intimately acquainted with wisdom=knowledge, experience, insight, intelligence)
- **to know instruction** (instruction=chastisement, correction, discipline, self-control)
- **To discern the sayings of understanding** (Discern=consider, be cunning, perceive, be prudent, skillful)—(understanding=to have insight)

Proverbs 1:3

To receive instruction in wise behavior, righteousness, justice and equity;

- Receive= to take, seize, acquire, buy marry, accept
- Wise behavior=to be prudent, have success, to become an expert; to be circumspect
- righteousness=the right way to act/respond naturally, morally and legally
- justice=judgment, law, decisions
- equity=fairness, peaceful arrangement

Proverbs 1:4

- **To give prudence to the naive, to the youth knowledge and discretion,**
- prudence=craftiness, shrewdness, to understand trickery (in a good sense)
- naive=simple, gullible, seducible, foolish (infant/child adult)
- youth=babe, boy, lad, young man—from the age of infancy to adolescence
- knowledge=knowledge possessed by God; particularly moral knowledge
- discretion=intention, purpose, intent and plans; to recognize a wicked scheme

Proverbs 1:5

- **A wise man will hear and increase in learning, and a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel,**
- wise=wise hearted, skillful, learned
- learning=to perceive instruction, teaching or insight
- acquire=to buy, possess, create

Proverbs 1:6

- **To understand a proverb and a figure, the words of the wise and their riddles.**
- proverb=a parable, maxim, simile
- riddles=dark sayings, hard question, a puzzle

Proverbs 1:7

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction

- We are given our starting place—The fear of the Lord—to rightly perceive Who He is and what His will is for you
- There will always be a choice. God will give instruction for which way to choose and why

I Timothy 1:5

But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

Goal=telos=goal, completion, conclusion

instruction=message, proclamation

Love:

- From a pure heart (Pure=clean or pure from the pollution and guilt of sin)
- John 13:34-35
- I John 4:16-19
- John 21:15-17—three fold denial precedes three fold invitation
- What are the lesser loves that need to be forsaken

A Good Conscience

- In good conscience=without feeling guilty
- A good conscience toward God is an inner peace that comes from a life of integrity, and moral alignment.
- Our conscience is the internal faculty that helps a person distinguish between right and wrong. It implies that you are attempting to align your thoughts and actions with a moral/ethical compass as your standard for behavior. It is the inner judge that accuses when I do wrong and approves when I act rightly
- Romans 2:14-15: For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness, and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them...

Sincere Faith

- sincere=without hypocrisy; genuine, unfeigned; free from agenda and selfish motives
- It describes someone who is honest, genuine and free from deceit or ulterior motives; without exaggeration.
- II Timothy 1:5—For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.
- Sincerity can be a modeled character quality. We can learn it from observing those who are raising us...