



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

(#4) Listen to Your Parents, not a "Gang!" 1:8-19

Verses 8-9: The father, whose work may occupy much time, gives "instruction," while the mother, whose work principally should be family, gives "law." The assumption here is that both have spiritually agreed to enforce God's law as best they might, therefore they are not in conflict with each other, nor undermine the other's authority with the children. This formula is clearly upheld in the Law of Christ ([Ephesians 6:-4](#)). "Human fathers" also chasten us ([Hebrews 12:9](#)) and enforce the discipline of teaching.

Societies that encourage, sanction, or teach children to disrespect their parents or to rebel against them, will not long survive. "Single parenting" is not the best way to raise a child. God has planned for both a "father" and a "mother" to be required, and included, in a child's proper instruction. The highest percentage of poverty in America is found in single-parent homes, mostly where the mother is the single parent! Properly teaching a child is like fine jewelry.

Verse 10: No one may be misled into sin without consent. Children are "in the wrong crowd" when they haven't been shown how to recognize "the wrong crowd," or to refuse to go along with "the wrong crowd," or taught to conform and give consent to "the wrong crowd." Parents who let their children be led by peers instead of by rightful parental advice have abdicated their duty and will be held accountable for it. "Sinners" refers to the willfully disobedient, not an occasional sin.

Verses 11-14: "The wrong crowd" will propose: (**vss. 11-12**) anything up to the point of murder to gain their advantage; (**vs. 13**) stealing anything and everything; (**vs.14**) becoming an equal partner in all matters. There is no clearer description of "gangs," "brotherhoods," "mobs," "cliques," "unions," or any other group devoted to violence. It is truly foolish ignorance to join such power associations, and must surely be referred to by the Apostle Paul in [2 Corinthians 6:14-18](#).

Verses 15-19: Such groups are to be avoided by not taking the first step with them (**v. 15**); for they are always in a hurry to do their evil (**v. 16**) and ignore the open net of judgment awaiting them (**v. 17**); the wicked openly seek blood with no prompting (**v. 18**); those "greedy for gain" (covetous) are so involved in pursuing "gain" they lose their own lives, and others' lives, if necessary!

