Trinity Reformed Church
of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Conservative, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for
September 27, 2026

"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you." – Exodus 20:12

trinityreformedct.org

"*" = *Please stand if you are able.*

Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

Call to Worship – Revelation 3:11-13

Leader: *I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have,*
People: **So that no one will take your crown.**
Leader: *He who overcomes,*
People: **I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God,**
Leader: *And he will not go out from it anymore;*
People: **And I will write on him the name of My God,**
Leader: *And the name of the city of My God,*
People: **The new Jerusalem,**
Leader: *Which comes down out of heaven from My God,*
People: **And My new name.**
Leader: *He who has an ear, let him hear*
People: **What the Spirit says to the churches.**

Prayer of Invocation and Confession
Gospel Absolution Text – 1Peter 5:4

*Hymn #710 – *"God of Our Fathers"*

Scripture Reading – Colossians 3:12-21

Ancient Creedal Proclamation – Apostles Creed (pg#845 in the red hymnal)

Offerings Presented

[Please put your tithe/offering in the plates before or after the service – Thank you!]
[Gifts labeled "Deacon's Fund go to aid those in need in the congregation.]

*__Doxology #731__ (red hymnal)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*__Prayer of Dedication__

*Sung Psalm #37C – *"Steps a Man Takes"*

Prayers of the Church & Lord's Prayer (sins) – *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

Reformation Creedal Reading – Westminster Larger Catechism, 127.

Leader:	*What is the honor that inferiors owe to their superiors?*	Mal 1:6; Lev 19:3; Prov 31:28
People:	**All due reverence in heart, word, and behavior;**	1Pet 3:6; Lev 19:32; 1Kgs 2:19
Leader:	*Prayer and thanksgiving for them; imitation*	1Tim 2:1-2; Heb 13:7; Phil 3:17; Eph 6:1-2,6-7
	of their virtues and graces; willing obedience	1Pet 2:13-14; Rom 13:1-5; Heb. 13:17
	to their lawful commands and counsels;	Prov 4:3-4; Prov 23:22; Ex 18:19,24
People:	**Due submission to their corrections;**	Heb 12:9; 1Pet 2:18-20
Leader:	*Fidelity to, defense, and maintenance*	Titus 2:9-10; 1Sam 26:15-16
	of their persons and authority,	2Sam 18:3; Esther 6:2
People:	**According to their several ranks,**	Matt 22:21; Rom 13:6-7
	and the nature of their places;	1Tim. 5:17-18; Gal 6:6; 45:11; 47:12
Leader:	*Bearing with their infirmities, and covering them in love,*	1Pet 2:18; Prov 23:22; Gen 9:23
People:	**That so they may be an honor to them and to their government.**	Ps 127:3-5; Prov 31:23

Ministry of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

*Sermon Text – Proverbs 1:8-10

*Gloria Patri #735 (red hymnal)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Sermon – "Parental Wisdom"

(A Sermon Series on Proverbs 1-9)

Ministry of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation & Warning

TRC practices guarded open communion. All who profess faith in Christ, have been baptized, have a basic understanding of this sacrament, and are in good standing with a biblical local church are welcome to the Lord's Table. If you are uncertain whether you should partake, it is wise to abstain and speak with the pastor afterward.

Prayer

Words of Institution – Matthew 26:26-28 + Luke 22:19-20; 1Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:26

"While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.' And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.' . . . Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ? Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread. For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."

Partaking of the Bread and then the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Hymn #719** – "*A Christian Home*"

***Benediction**

Everyone is welcome to Coffee Hour Fellowship downstairs after church today

Announcements

- Pastor Doug's **Tuesday & Wednesday Studies** are currently on pause, they will return soon.
- The **Gen Alpha Club** will meet from 2:00 to 4:00 on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.
- The next in-person **Elder & Deacon Meeting** is on **October 3rd** at **9:00 AM** at the Ensminger's.
- With apologies, the Oktoberfest, scheduled for Oct. 10th, is canceled.
- There will be a **special Coffee Hour** on **October 18th**, to celebrate the arrival of baby James.
- The **4th Annual Christmas Party** will be on Friday, **December 4th**.
- TRC's **Annual Meeting** is after church, on Sunday, **December 13th**. The snow-day is December 20th.
- **Saturday Morning Prayer Group** at the Gabelmann's. (Please call Sheryl to confirm if the group is meeting that day, 860-309-7250.)
- Pastor Doug is trying to organize a **Zoom call** to discuss how **TRC can support home-schoolers**, if you are interested, please see him.

ONLINE RESOURCES

TRC's Webpage:	TrinityReformedCT.org
TRC's Facebook Page:	facebook.com/people/Trinity-Reformed-Church/61554974150922/
TRC's Youtube Channel:	youtube.com/@TrinityReformedCT

INTERNET PRAYER CHAIN

If you have any prayer requests for our prayer chain, please email them to Donna Ensminger at: **trcnwprayer@gmail.com**. (If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, also see Donna.)

LEADERSHIP

Elders:	Rev. Douglas Aldrich, pastor	860-379-1147	douglas_aldrich@sbcglobal.net
	Bob Ensminger	860-485-8738	robert.ensminger@arthurgrussell.com
	Rich Gabelmann	860-605-7852	rgabelmann0415@gmail.com
	Rev. Jonathan Haulenbeek	203-709-0784	jhaulenbeek@icloud.com

Deacons: David Mattson (chair), Carl Bierce, Caleb Goodell, Mason Goodell, Dean Winters

Sunday School: Verna Aldrich — ***Music Coordinator***: Cindy Rines

Clerk: Sheryl Gabelmann — ***Treasurer***: Cindy Rines

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Worship Starts At: 10:30 AM (9:30 AM in the summer)
Sunday Worship At: Winchester Grange (100 Newfield Rd; Winchester Center, CT 06098)
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 343; Riverton, CT 06065 – *Phone*: (860) 238-7399
Webpage: trinityreformedct.org – *Email*: trinityreformedct@gmail.com

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Sermon Notes

Proverbs 1:8-10
"Parental Wisdom"
A Sermon Series on Proverbs 1-9
September 27, 2026

Introduction

1) What is first, and foremost, the most foundational act, the most important good work you can do, when it comes to loving your neighbor?

2) The wise, or the smart-alec, might say: You are wrong, pastor! That is a stupid question: First, we are to love God!

   a) Fair enough, you are right.

   b) The Lord Jesus did answer this question: "'*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.*" – Matthew 22:37b-40

3) However, humor my question for a moment: What particular act would be the foundational good work that you could do to begin to love your neighbor?

   a) First, remember the definition of "***love***": To will your neighbor's good according to God's Law. Lev 19:18; Matt 22:37-40; Rom 13:8-10; 1John 5:2-3

      i) And "***neighbor***" means everyone, all humans, but in particular those you interact with, and especially those you have relationships with. Lev 19:17-18; Matt 5:43-48; Luke 6:27-36; 10:25-37; Gal 6:10; 1Tim 5:8

      ii) For example, if you are a college student who is more concerned about "freeing Palestine" or "defending Israel" than honoring your parents, you are doing it wrong.

   b) So, what is your answer?

      i) Being nice? Helping the poor? Loving your children? Giving unconditional love?

      ii) The Bible gives an answer: "*Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you.*" – Exodus 20:12

         • This is the 5th of the Ten Commandments. Ex 20:3-17; Deut 5:7-21

         • The first of the "love your neighbor" commands found in #5-10.

      iii) As the Lord Jesus alluded to, the Ten Commandments are divided up into two groups (sometimes called tables or tablets):

         • Commandments 1-4 are about loving God.

         • Commandments 5-10 are about loving your neighbor.

4) Let's ponder this ordering of loves, and the importance of the 5th Commandment, as we continue to go through Proverbs 1-9.

Goals in Reading Proverbs

1) We are seeking to learn wisdom as we read through Proverbs 1-9.

   a) Proverbs 1:2-3 – "*To know wisdom and instruction, to discern the sayings of understanding, to receive instruction in wise behavior, righteousness, justice and equity.*"

      i) **Knowledge** (*dă·ʿăṯ*) is concerned with knowing and understanding what is true and right.

      ii) **Wisdom** (*ḥāḵ·mā(h)*) is to rightly use that knowledge to judge, choose, to make sound judgments, and to have the skill to live correctly.

      iii) **Instruction** (*mû·sār*) is to learn discipline, correction, and the willingness to take rebuke, which are the means by which we acquire knowledge and grow in wisdom.

b) We do not want the "*wisdom from below*", which is wisdom for wisdom's sake, or whose main goal is obtaining earthly power and riches, though those can be side effects, and a blessing from God. 1Cor 2:6 1Cor 3:19 James 1:17 James 3:15-17

c) We are seeking "*the wisdom from above*".

2) Remember, Proverbs is ancient wisdom literature; it is poetry, which requires skill.

a) Being poetry, it means Proverbs is more about a journey than just learning data points.

b) It is more art than science.

c) Woven into the Book of Proverbs is God's Law, including the Ten Commandments.[1]

Proverbs & The Ten Commandments

1) Notice the flow of the Ten Commandments behind Proverbs, chapter 1.

2) Proverbs 1:1-6 is the introduction.

a) The journey to learn wisdom, instruction, discernment and wise behavior, to produce righteousness, justice, equity and prudence.

b) As we quoted above.

3) Proverbs 1:7 is the main thesis of Proverbs, the foundations of seeking wisdom.

a) Proverbs 1:7 – "*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.*"

b) How do you begin to fear the Lord?

c) Start with the first four of the Ten Commandments, which are about loving God correctly. Ex 20:3-11 Deut 5:7-15

(Yes, fear and love fundamentally go together, especially with regard to God.) Deut 6:2,5; 10:12-13; Ps 112:1 Eccl 12:13; John 14:15,21; 15:10

i) #1 – No other god besides the Triune God.

ii) #2 – No idols.

iii) #3 – Do not take the Lord's name in vain.

iv) #4 – Remember the Sabbath.

4) What is the next commandment of the Ten Commandments?

a) The first command about loving your neighbor?

i) Again, the 5th Commandment.

ii) Exodus 20:12a – "*Honor your father and your mother . . .*"

b) After the fear of God, in Proverbs 1:7, what is taught next?

i) Today's sermon text!

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[1] 1st - 4th (Only God, No Idols, No Blasphemy, Sabbath): Prov 1:7,29; 2:5-6; 3:5-7,9-12; 8:13; 9:10
5th (Honor Parents): Prov 1:8-9; 4:1-4; 6:20-23
6th (No Murder): Prov 1:11-19; 3:29; 4:14-17; 6:16-19
7th (No Adultery): Prov 2:16-19; 5:1-23; 6:23-35; 7:1-27
8th (No Stealing): Prov 1:13-14,19; 6:30-31
9th (No Perjury): Prov 6:16-19
10th (No Coveting): Prov 6:25-26

ii) Proverbs 1:8-9 – "*Hear, my son, your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching; Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head and ornaments about your neck.*"

iii) Is that not the 5th Commandment?

c) Look at the outline of what follows:

i) Proverbs 1:10 – Calling one's "son" not to be enticed by sinners.

(Again, notice the main audience of Proverbs: Young men.)[2]

ii) Proverbs 1:11-12 – Avoid violence, the 6th Commandment about not murdering.

iii) Proverbs 1:13f – Avoid greed and stealing, the 8th Commandment.

d) Some might ask: What about the 7th Commandment about adultery?

i) Again, Proverbs is poetry, which allows artistic flexibility and creativity in teaching.

ii) Don't worry, avoiding sexual sin is a major theme in Proverbs. Prov 2:16-19; 5:1-23 Prov 6:20-35; 7:1-27

The Importance of the 5th Commandment

1) The fact we wouldn't consider the 5th Commandment foundational exposes our faulty modern thinking.

a) We think individually, immediately.

b) Instead of thinking covenantally, communally, and generationally.

2) The Apostle Paul gives an important commentary on this commandment:

a) The Commandment itself explains its logic: "*so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.*" – Ephesians 6:3 Ex 20:12 Deut 5:16,33; 6:2 Deut 11:8, 9; Jer 35:7

b) Paul comments, "*which is the first commandment with a promise.*" – Ephesians 6:2b

3) One's parents are the first human authorities you learn to honor, respect and obey. 1Sam 24:13; Ezek 16:44 Matt 7:16-20

a) From that comes respect for all other authorities: Church leaders, teachers, magistrates, husbands, employers, etc.

b) The child learns obedience, restraint, and respect at home, and that rebellion, violence, and godlessness are wrong – which is a blessing to society.

c) Respect for parents also preserves the wisdom of older generations, helping the young avoid foolish mistakes.

Proverbs 1:8-10

1) Solomon calls his son to hear his father's instruction and not to forsake his mother's teaching.

a) Obviously, this is a poetic reference for the hearer/reader to listen to the teachings of this book like a son would listen to his father and mother.

b) Wisdom is a beautiful wreath around one's head.

c) And one of the key aspects of wisdom is honoring your parents.

[2] Prov 1:4,8-10; 2:1; 3:1,11,21; 4:1,10,20; 5:1,7,20; 6:1,3,20; 7:1,7; 19:27; 23:15,19,22,26; 24:13,21; 27:11.

d) Both are exceedingly beautiful ways to adorn one's life.

2) Wisdom, and a father and mother's instruction, are like "*a graceful wreath*" on one's head and "*ornaments about your neck.*" Prov 1:9; 4:9 Judg 8:26; Prov 1:9 SoS 4:9

a) The wreath is not so much a crown, which is about rank, glory, and a statement of power. Prov 4:9 Is 28:1,3

i) It is more like a beautiful adornment, a gift, a blessing. Prov 4:9

ii) A more literal translation would be "a garland of grace/favor."

iii) In the ancient world, decorative garlands or headpieces were associated with honor, festivity, beauty, and distinction.

b) A parent's instruction is also like "*ornaments about your neck.*"

i) Like a wreath, this is a decoration – ornaments worn around the neck, like a necklace.

ii) It signifies beauty, wealth, honor, and elevated status. Dan 5:7,16,29

- In Genesis 41:42, Pharaoh places a gold necklace around Joseph's neck when exalting him.
- Song of Songs 1:10; 4:9, neck ornaments are associated with beauty and attractiveness.

c) The point of Proverbs 1:9 is clear: A parent's godly instruction is like a valuable jewelry which makes the wearer beautiful, honorable and distinguished, in the true sense.

i) Wisdom, by worldly thinking, may seem like a yoke or a burden.

ii) In the end, it is not.

3) Thus the command: "*My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent.*" – Proverbs 1:8

a) This is obvious and seems easy.

i) Many would say: "Of course I want to be wise and I will honor my parents!"

ii) Really? Then why do so few do it?

b) How many truly seek wisdom in this fallen world so?

c) How many parents try to actively, and consistently, instill wisdom in their children?

d) How many children eagerly take their parents' training?

Folly Is Everywhere

1) The world, or Folly, to use Proverbs' poetic antagonist representing the world, is far more pervasive and tempting than we like to give credence to.

a) Remember, the first step to wisdom is to fear the LORD. Job 28:28; Ps 111:10 Prov 1:7; 9:10; 15:33

b) How many people do you know who seek to do that?

c) Even in the modern church?

2) How often do parents fear the world more than they fear God?
    a) How many parents assume it is natural and good for children to rebel against their parents because that is what they did as teenagers?
    b) How many parents want to be friends with their children instead of being their parents?
    c) How many parents, through words, and more importantly actions, teach their children that school, worldly activities, or even family, are more important than God, His church, and the worship of the Almighty on His day?
    d) How many parents choose a church based on its children's programs or whether their children will find friends in that church, instead of what that church teaches?
    e) How many grandparents are silenced out of fear that "If I say what is right, I will be cut off from my grandchildren!"
    f) How many parents, especially mothers, when called to discipline their children, respond with the feeling, "But if I discipline my child, they won't love me!"
    g) How many fathers back down to the worldly fears of their wives?
    h) How many fathers think they have no role in training their children to fear the Lord, leaving that to their wives, or the church, when it is their main job?
    i) How many parents actually think teaching their children to fear God is a good thing?
3) Why do you fear this world, including your children, more than you fear and trust God?
4) Today's sermon text, however, is directed to the young, especially young men.
    a) Children, do you desire to hear your father's instruction and your mother's teaching?
    b) Do you joyfully submit to your parents or find ways around their teaching?
    c) Do you only externally obey while internally rebelling by "sassing with your eyes?"
    d) Do you resent your parents because they will not permit you to do what "everyone else" is doing?
    e) Do you hide your ways, your conversations, friendships, websites, music, entertainment, or relationships because you already know your parents would disapprove?
    f) When your friends mock your parents' rules, do you defend your parents, go silent, or even join your friends in ridiculing them?
    g) Do you care more about being thought well of by your friends than being thought faithful by your father and mother?
    h) Would you rather disappoint your parents than embarrass yourself before your friends?

The Way is Narrow

1) I would assume many of you are thinking: This is really hard! If not painful.
    a) Yes, I agree.
    b) My purpose wasn't to depress you, though conviction of sin is always good, but to help all of us to understand how difficult the road of wisdom and following God's Law is. — Ps 119:5-6; Prov 4:18-27; Matt 7:13-14; Rom 7:21-25; Phil 3:12-14; Heb 12:1-2
        i) To realize how much the world has crept in.
        ii) And how much we really don't fear God, which is the beginning of knowledge.
    c) Weighing out holiness and charity, knowing when to speak and when not to speak, let alone what to say and when, takes a great deal of wisdom. — Prov 10:19; 15:1-2; 25:11; Eccl 3:7; Matt 7:6; 10:16; Eph 4:15; James 1:19; 3:2-12

d) One of the main purposes of God's Law is to expose our sin and foolishness. Ps 19:7-11; Prov 1:7,22-33; 9:8-10 Rom 3:19-20; 7:7; Gal 3:19,24

i) The wise man takes the correction and seeks after it.

ii) While the fool despises wisdom and correction.

iii) Why? Because the fool does not believe the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge.

2) Many thoughts and questions might come to mind:

a) Some might say: But my parents are not, or were not, godly, wise parents; they made a lot of mistakes!

i) Children are called to obey their parents. This does not mean they cannot ask their parents questions in a godly, respectful way.

ii) Also, for grievous direct violations of God's Law, the Almighty has given you the church and the magistrate to turn to in extreme situations.

iii) But be thankful for the blessings the Almighty has given you through your parents.

- There are probably more than you realize.
- We fallen humans tend to focus on the bad and miss the manifold blessings we have received.

b) Note the commandment is "*Honor your father and mother*." It does not say "Obey your father and mother even when you are an adult."

i) The Hebrew word for "honor" literally means to "be heavy."

ii) This means you give your parents "more weight" when making decisions, balancing out all aspects of God's Law, which requires wisdom.

iii) While obeying your parents directly applies more to when you are a child, honoring is a life-long commitment.

iv) It has been moving in this church to see how many (older) children have so honored their parents at the end of their lives.

c) Some might say: But I have made so many mistakes as a parent.

i) True, therefore repent and believe in Christ and His Gospel.

ii) You do believe that covers all your sins, right? Is 53:4-6; Rom 8:1; 2Cor 5:21 Col 2:13-14; Heb 10:10-14; 1John 1:7-9

d) But pastor, I mess up my children!

i) Again, do you believe in the Gospel or not?

ii) In Christ, all your sins are forgiven and that God is sovereign.

iii) Yes, there will probably be consequences in this life, but that is a cross we are called to bear while we are briefly here during our time on earth.

iv) And now do what is right, seek & do wisdom, encouraging others to learn from your mistakes and the wisdom they bring, trusting in God's providence, and resting in Christ. This is fearing the Lord. Prov 3:5-7; Eccl 12:13 Rom 8:28; 15:4 Phil 3:13-14 Heb 12:1-2