

**“What’s A Father To Do?”**  
**Ephesians 6:4**  
**Father’s Day June 18, 2023**

**Fathers are God’s Spiritual Representatives in the Home/Society!**  
**Matthew 6:9 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who art in heaven, God is called “Our Father” and God has given that earthly role to Earthly Fathers.**

Modeling before the family **godly character, love, and God’s care.**

**Thought Of The Passage:** “Fathers That Cooperate With God, Don’t Provoke, But Nurture, Discipline And Instruct In The Lord”

**What’s A Father To Do? The Apostle Paul Gives 4 Directives:**

- 1. Fathers Don’t Provoke Children**
- 2. Fathers Nurture Children**
- 3. Fathers Discipline Children**
- 4. Fathers Instruct Children**

**1. Fathers Don’t Provoke Children:**

**Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger:**

**Fathers**, the **Context** - of this passage is **“Walking In Harmony”**  
**Ephesians 5:18-6:9** Paul begins with the power through the Spirit filled life **Ephesians 5:18** Paul states three evidences of being Spirit filled **v-19 Joy, v-20 Thankfulness, v-21 Submission** Paul then **Ephesians 5:22-33** The Role of Wives and Husbands. **Ephesians 6:1-3** The role of children in the home, **Ephesians 6:4** Fathers

**Fathers** are clearly the leader in the home. **Context - Ephesians 6:1-3**  
**“Parents”** Our passage includes wife/mother, Husband/Father gives direction.

**do not** - Gives a negative. (Failure in this negative leads to failure in instruction)

**provoke your children to anger;** *“to exasperate repeatedly, to cause to seethe with resentment, to irritate”* The description of a tree, *“the sap of a tree swelling on a hot day.”*

**Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger;** If you ask your child, EVERYTHING PROVOKES THEM!

When parents provoke their children to anger, we are tempting them to sin against the 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment. In such cases we are guilty before God for

disobeying Ephesians 6:4 and also doubly guilty for causing our children to stumble.

**What are some ways that a Father/Mother can provoke their children to anger? There are thousands of ways.**

**Colossians 3:21 Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.**

## **2. Fathers Nurture Children:**

**Ephesians 6:4 but bring them up**

**but** - Don't do this, this is a do-not. (So much advice is don't do this! Well, what should we do?)

**“Wives encourage your husbands to be Fathers!”**

**bring them up** - *"to nourish up to maturity, to feed in friendliness, gentleness, tutoring, instructing where needed"* Father's committed to look after a child until they are mature. (Ongoing Commitment)

**Hebrews 12:7**

**Luke 2:52 wisdom** - Mentally, we need to teach and challenge our children.

**Stature** – Physically, take care of them physically. Make sure that their physical needs are met.

**In favor with God** – Spiritually share the Word, prayer with them.

**And men** – Socially, lead them into godly relationships.

## **3. Fathers Discipline Children:**

**Ephesians 6:4 in the discipline**

**discipline** - *"the whole training and education of children, the cultivation of the mind, morals include commands, admonitions, reproof, and disciplinary correction, and punishment"*

This word "**Discipline**" is a dirty word today. People look at it as restrictive, as bondage. It simply means *"training,"* which is a positive word.

**Proverbs 15:32; 19:18; 22:6;**

**Proverbs 22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of discipline will remove it far from him.**

**"Rod"**- *"staff, branch, offshoot, scepter, club"*

**The purpose of discipline is to train and teach what is right and what is wrong.**

After disciplining a child, we need to instruct them to seek God's forgiveness, then ours for disobedience to us.

**We are not to spank for accidents like spilling milk.**

**Examples of Discipline In Proverbs:**

**Proverbs 13:24; 22:15, 13-14; 29:15**

**Proverbs 30:17**

#### **4. Fathers Instruct Children:**

**Ephesians 6:4 and instruction of the Lord.**

**instruction** - literally means *"to place before the mind, to teach, to warn, to confront"* **of the Lord.** The Fathers place before their children, God's Word!

**Instruction Of The Word of God** - God instructed Israel to live out and put the Word of God before their children.

**Deuteronomy 6:4-9** You would think about the Word when you were in the house, when you left the house you would see and think about it, when you returned you would see and think about as you came inside.

**The Bible Teaches 3 Truths That Must Be Ingrained In Us:**

- 1. People Have Been Created By God** - God is the creator
- 2. People Are Corrupt Sinners** – Our problem is sin
- 3. People Need To Be Redeemed** – People need nothing less than a new birth

**Family Devotions:**

**Get a translation that our children can understand.** There are some good devotionals out here.

## **Book "More than Conquerors"**

**The main thing about devotions as a family is you have to be committed.**

**Don't miss the opportunities that God gives us**

Teaching them that **God loves us, God is the standard of right and wrong.** Every **person is responsible for his or her own actions.**

**Instruction In Prayer - That God is accessible**

### **Application:**

1. Fathers Don't Provoke Your Children To Anger, Causing Them To Sin Against The Fifth Commandment To Honor Their Parents.
2. Fathers Are To Nurture Their Children – Which Is An Ongoing Commitment To Nourish Up To Maturity.
3. Fathers Are To Discipline – Whole Training And Education Of Children. Reproof And Disciplinary Correction.
4. Fathers Are To Give The Instruction Of The Lord - To Place Before The Mind, To Teach, To Warn, To Confront In The Things Of The Lord.