

“Fathers Who Lead”
Ephesians 6:4
Father’s Day, June 19, 2016

Ephesians 6:1-4

Fathers are God’s Spiritual Representatives in the Home/Society!
Matthew 6:9 – God is called our Father, and God has given that earthly role to Earthly Fathers.

How Is A Father To Lead? The Apostle Gives 4 things:

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

1. Fathers, Don’t Provoke Them:

Ephesians 6:4

“Fathers,” – The context of this passage is “Walking In Harmony.”
Ephesians 5:18-6:9 – Paul starts with the power through the Spirit-filled life. Ephesians 5:18 – Paul states 3 evidences of being Spirit-filled: v. 19 – Joy, v. 20 – Thankfulness, v. 21 – Submission. Paul then in 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 family; Context – Ephesians 6:1-3 – “Parents”. Our passage includes Wife/Mother. Husband/Father gives direction. Term “brethren” includes women. Fathers are specified as being the sources of domestic authority.

“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.”

“do not provoke your children to anger;” – This was something new in Paul’s day, to make such a statement, because children were not regarded as important.

Children are commanded by God to “honor their parents.”

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

Colossians 3:21

2. Fathers, Nurture Them:

Ephesians 6:4 – “but bring them up”

“but” – Don’t do this; this is a do-not.

“bring them up” – “to nourish up to maturity, to feed in friendliness, gentleness, tutoring, instructing where needed”; Fathers 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; Not wants but needs.

“in favor with God” – Spiritually – share the word; pray with them.

“and men” – Socially – let them be witness, and lead them into godly relationships.

3. Fathers, Discipline Them:

Ephesians 6:4 – “in the discipline”

“discipline” – “the whole training and education of children, the cultivation of the mind, morals; includes commands, admonitions, reproof and disciplinary correction and punishment.”

This word “discipline”, it simply means “training”, which is a positive word.

Proverbs 15:32

Proverbs 19:18

Proverbs 22:6

Proverbs 22:15

“Rod” – “staff, branch, offshoot, scepter, club”; how do you like that, a “club?”

The purpose of discipline is to train and teach what is right and what is wrong, and that doing what is wrong will always bring bad consequences for the actions. We as parents are teaching that sin breaks fellowship with God and man.

After disciplining a child, we need to instruct them to seek God's forgiveness, then ours for disobedience to us. This instills within them when they leave the house, that when they sin, God will deal with them.

Examples of Discipline in Proverbs:

Proverbs 13:24

Proverbs 22:15

Proverbs 23:13

Proverbs 23:14

Proverbs 29:15

Proverbs 30:17

4. Fathers, Instruct Them:

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

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

- 1. People Have Been Created By God** – God is the creator. He is supreme. He declares what is right and wrong. He is never unjust.

2. People Are Corrupt Sinners – Our problem is sin; not environmental nor political, but spiritual.

3. People Need To Be Redeemed – People need nothing less than a new birth, new nature; a relationship with God.

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.

“instruction of the Lord.” – Not just instruction, but God’s directives.

Application:

1. Parents 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.