

Series "Our Riches In Christ"
"The Walk Of The Parents"
Ephesians 6:4
Study-23

Our children are ever observing the Parent's Actions and Attitudes.

40% of the children in America are going to bed every night without their biological Father in the home. Fathers Are AWOL!

Thought Of The Passage: "Parents That Cooperate With God, Don't Provoke, But Nurture, Discipline And Instruct In The Lord."

The Apostle Paul Gives 4 Directives To Parents:

- 1. Parents, Don't Provoke Children**
- 2. Parents, Nurture Children**
- 3. Parents, Discipline Children**
- 4. Parents, Instruct Children**

1. Parents, Don't Provoke Children:

Ephesians 6:4 – "Fathers," – The Context: Section of this passage is "Walking In Harmony," Ephesians 5:18-6:9; power through the Spirit-filled life, Ephesians 5:18. 3 evidences of being Spirit-filled: v. 19 – Joy, v. 20 – Thankfulness, v. 21 – Submission.

"Fathers," – are clearly the leaders of the home. Context: Immediate; Ephesians 6:1-3 – "Parents." Our passage includes wife/mother; Husband/Father gives direction. Term "brethren" includes women.

"do not" – Gives a negative; Failure in this negative leads to failure in instruction.

"do not 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 up on a hot day."

"your children" – this is so basic, what Paul is saying. This includes stepchildren.

"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.

"The Father's Power" – Men/Fathers who were Roman citizens were given absolute property rights over their families.

Children are commanded by God to "honor their parents," Ephesians 6:2. When parents provoke their children to anger, we are causing them to sin against the 5th 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 Parents can provoke children to anger? There are thousands of ways, (20 Ways).

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

2. Parents, Nurture Children:

Ephesians 6:4 – "but bring them up"

"but" – Don't do this, this is a do-not. So much advise is "don't do this!" Well, what should we do?

"Wives encourage your husbands; be Fathers!" Let them make decisions; if you don't agree with them, take it up privately with them, not in front of the children. Pray & Trust the Lord to work out what is best!

"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).

Luke 2:52

"wisdom" – Mentally; we need to teach and challenge our children. Trying to get some children to read is difficult, even if it is a magazine they like.

"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, prayer with them.

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

Father's life is busy and complicated. We can't always be there, but we must be committed to lovingly training our children to maturity.

3. Parents, Discipline Children:

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” 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; Proverbs 19:18; Proverbs 22:6; Proverbs 22:15

“Rod”– “staff, branch, offshoot, scepter, club”

Disciplining (Spanking) your children is not against the Law. You cannot abuse, but can be reasonable in your discipline.

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.

Examples of Discipline In Proverbs:

Proverbs 13:24; Proverbs 22:15; Proverbs 23:13; Proverbs 23:14;
Proverbs 29:15; Proverbs 30:17; Hebrews 12:7

4. Parents, 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 father’s 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. We Have Been Created By God.
2. We Are Corrupt Sinners.
3. We Need To Be Redeemed.

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 that you have to be committed.

Don't miss the opportunities that God gives us, like what He told the parents of Israel, when they go to bed, they sometimes are so open at the end of the day.

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 – God is accessible. God wants us to seek Him. Pray for them, pray as a family.

“instruction of the Lord.” – Not just instruction but God's directives. When we give God's Word, It is backed by God's Authority.

Application:

1. Parents Don't Provoke Your Children To Anger. Causing Them To Sin Against The Fifth Commandment, To Honor Their Parents.
2. Parents Are To Nurture Their Children – Which Is An Ongoing Commitment To Nourish Up To Maturity.
3. Parents Are To Discipline – Whole Training And Education Of Children. Reproof And Disciplinary Correction.
4. Parents 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.