

**BRINGING UP CHILDREN  
IN THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD**  
**Ephesians 6:4a**  
**8/1/10**

Husbands and wives today are being told that there is more to life than training and disciplining the next generation.

**The Myth of Quality Time, Newsweek 5/12/97**

Studies show that the average American dad spends less than a half a minute each day in meaningful conversation with his children.

**That boils down to about three hours a year**

Not only do parents not take time to train their kids for life and eternity

**More and more see it as too much of a hassle to consistently discipline them.**

Ephesians 6:4 includes three aspects of godly parenting.

**We will look at the first two this week and the third next week.**

**1. Do not provoke your children to anger.**

***Fathers***- this particular passage addresses fathers, but that does not diminish the role mothers in these areas also.

***Do not provoke your children to anger***

Do not incite them or cause them to become unnecessarily angry

Most children (people) will get angry when we stand in the way of them getting what they want.

Yet the Bible tells us that we need to discipline them and keep them from doing things that will be physically or spiritually harmful to them.

We need however to be careful that we do all we can to not cause our children to become unnecessarily frustrated and angry.

A parallel passage is found in Colossians 3:21

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

Do not frustrate or exasperate them so that they lose hope, become demoralized, discouraged and give up.

How do we provoke our children to anger, exasperate them, and cause them to lose heart?

Harsh and unreasonable punishment

Indiscriminant discipline

Refusing to listen and not getting the facts

Unclear rules

Lording it over them

Angry tirades, Cruel words, and Personal attacks

Comparing one child with another

Unreasonable expectations take the heart out of a child.

Expecting children to do things beyond their age or ability

Don't be a parent where nothing is ever good enough. (school, sports, etc)

Constant criticism and nagging embitters and disheartens.

Praise, acceptance, and approval motivate.

**2. Bring up your children in the discipline of the Lord.**

**a. Why do we need to discipline our children?**

**1. Because our children are born with fallen natures.**

We don't have to teach them to lie, cheat, steal, or hit others.

It comes naturally as a result of the fall.

**Psalm 51:5** Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,  
And in sin my mother conceived me.

**Psalm 58:3** The wicked are estranged from the womb;  
These who speak lies go astray from birth.

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

**2. Because we want to deliver our children from the  
natural and eternal consequences of a life of sin.**

The prophet Eli failed with his sons Hophni and  
Phinehas

**1 Samuel 3:13** "For I have told him that I am about  
to judge his house forever for the iniquity which he  
knew, because his sons brought a curse on  
themselves and he did not rebuke them.

King David failed with at least three of his sons.  
(Amnon, Absalom, and Adonijah)

**1 Kings 1:6** His father had never crossed him at any  
time . . . "

**Proverbs 29:15** The rod and reproof give wisdom, But  
a child who gets his own way brings shame to his  
mother.

**3. Because God clearly teaches us to discipline our  
children.**

**Proverbs 23:13-14** Do not hold back discipline from  
the child, Although you strike him with the rod, he will  
not die. You shall strike him with the rod And rescue  
his soul from Sheol.

Articles on Spanking

**Spare the Rod, Family Research Counsel**

**When to Spank, USNWR 4/13/98**

**4. Because we love our children.**

**Proverbs 3:12** For whom the LORD loves He reproves, Even as a father *corrects* the son in whom he delights.

**Proverbs 13:24** He who withholds his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.

**My daughter Lori asked me a question about another family when she was only about 6 years old. "Why don't they love their kids?" "They don't spank them."**

**Heb 12:5-11**

**Our goal as parents isn't to keep everybody happy, it is to equip our children for wise and godly living.**

Raising children includes correcting mistakes and curbing passions

It involves the cultivation of minds and morals

### **3. Some Suggestions**

**a. Express abundant acceptance, encouragement, approval and praise.**

Several years ago, John McKay the great football coach at the University of Southern California was interviewed on television. Coach McKay was asked to comment on the pride he must feel over his son's accomplishments on the football field. His answer was most impressive:

"Yes, I'm pleased that John had a good season last year. He does a fine job and I am proud of him. But I would be just as proud if he had never played the game at all."

**b. Give your children plenty of time and attention.**

There is no substitute for time.

Newsweek magazine for April 3, 1989, reported the response of baseball's great Pete Rose to an article in Gentleman's Quarterly in which two of his children said Rose was not a good father. "I'm a great father," Rose

said. "I bought my daughter a new Mercedes-Benz last week

**c. Communicate openly and frequently.**

Express thoughts and feelings.

Be careful to avoid communication killers

Lecturing, accusations, demeaning comments, sarcasm, name-calling, excessive talking, and majoring on minors

**d. Ask forgiveness and admit when you are wrong.**

**e. Grant forgiveness.**

Don't shun your kids or hold things over their heads.

Don't make discipline an issue of approval and acceptance.

Don't use disciplines that involve prolonged punishment.

**f. Don't smother them.**

Overprotective fathers and mothers smother

Increasingly grant your children appropriate freedoms.

If you don't, they are never given the opportunity to develop the ability to make decisions.

They will either become rebellious or have an unhealthy emotional dependence upon you.

**g. Pray**

The best and most effective thing you can do for your children is to pray for them daily.

Not just as a last resort in moments of crisis

In short, godly parenting requires a supportive loving relationship that recognizes our dependence upon God.

I have never heard an older person look back on life and say, "Boy, oh boy! I wish I had spent more time at the office!" or, "If I had it to do over, I would get up even

earlier in the morning and go down to the office and really  
get after my job!"

For life is short, the years rush past

A little boy grows up so fast

No longer is he at your side

His precious secrets to confide.

The picture books are put away

There are no more games to play

No goodnight kiss, no prayers to hear --

That all belongs to yesteryear.

My hands once busy now lie still

The days are long and hard to fill

I wish I might go back and do

The little things you asked me to.

Dads and moms, the only thing that we can take to heaven is our  
children.