

Fathers, and God's Children  
Ephesians 6:4

What is the God assigned task of a father?

To whom is Paul speaking?

What are the assumptions that Paul is making in this text?

DO NOT

How does Paul restrict the authority of the Father?

How can fathers provoke their children to anger?

Overprotection/ over control

Favoritism

Pushing success

Expect too much, or too little from your children

By poorly disciplining your children (Proverbs 13:24, 22:15; 23:13-14)

By being overindulgent (1 Samuel 3:13)

By needless discouragement

By parental selfishness

DO

Bring them up.

Things to do: (Wayne Mack)

1. Expect of your children what they are capable of accomplishing.
2. Discipline them for the glory of God and their good.
3. Practice what you preach. Children can spot a fake, and it drives them nuts when it is their parents.
4. Lead your children with prayer first, personal example second, and then rules for them to keep. It is, follow me as I follow Christ.
5. Cultivate joy in your family life. Positive encouragement, family fun, togetherness; bind your family together with the cords of love. That is nurture.
6. Freely express love and affection as a married couple and for your children. Love them; each of them. As parents, freely express love to each other in front of the children; dance in the kitchen; sing the praises of your spouse in front of the children.
7. Allow your children to try and fail; to learn and grow; and still love and accept them. Forgive them.
8. Make reasonable rules and have sensible expectations for your children
9. Admit your mistakes and ask forgiveness for them. Live the gospel in front of your children.
10. Be approachable for your children. If they have a problem, concern, doubt, fear; try to be sure that they will come to you first.

We are to provide for our children:

Economically, emotionally, spiritually nourish them.

What is paideia?

What is nouthesia?

Is all our training/teaching consistently Christian? (of the Lord?)

Fathers, we are to help our children to flourish. (Proverbs 22:6; Genesis 18:19)