

Ephesians 6:4- Being a Father in Modern Times

Clarke, Barnes, Calvin, TSK, Fugate, GreekLexicon, HebrewLexicon, Henry, PNT, Poole, Robertson, Trapp, Rienecker, Handfuls, JFB, Geneva, Family, Eclectic, Gill, Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Most here would acknowledge that **children are being more spoiled by their parents** today than in the past. Most here would acknowledge that **children are being encouraged by the state to sin** – more than in the past. Most here would agree the **church is submitting to the felt needs of the kids and changing what is taking place in the church**. Because of our failures to raise children well, many of them are heading to hell.

But that is not how Christ's kingdom ought to be! With these little emperors and empresses you can't focus on the work of having dominion for Jesus Christ. So you must train them. You will hear about this today.

Our headings are:

A good father knows the necessity of Training

A good father avoids using negative Training

A good father understands the nature of Training

Our goal is **that parents (parents to be, grandparents, and anyone standing loco parentis) will invest the time and energy to properly train covenant children for the glory of God, and the good of their children, church, and country.**

A good father knows the Necessity for Training

4 And you, fathers...

1. A good father knows his children need training and admonition.

Earlier Apostle Paul said, "Children obey your **parents** in the Lord." Now, he does not say "parents" but "**fathers**." Fathers are to train their children. He was very specific.

This does not mean that mothers don't teach and discipline. Far from it! Mothers have to teach and discipline.

Proverbs 6:20 My son, keep your father's command, And do not forsake the law of your mother.

What the Apostle Paul was referring to here is that fathers must give formal training to their children. This is the norm! This is not a delegable function.

God's laws are never determined by the exceptions... like if a father dies, or there is no father... There are options to these exceptional circumstances. There are grandparents, uncles, elders, deacons, friends...to help.

2. A good father knows his children need training to develop a proper view of God – his person, his authority, and his law.

It is true children will not usually accept they need authority and law, but they do need it. They need to learn they are not a law to themselves but are to live for God's glory. **With no authority, children will not have a proper sense of right or wrong.**

If you don't train your children well, your children will go out and search for a new authority figure to stand in your place... It may be that teacher in school, a cult, or the neighborhood drug dealer...None of these will give a proper view of God.

3. A good father knows his children need training because they are sinful from birth so they need salvation.

They are miserable creatures that, if left to themselves, will coast along to hell with their eyes wide open. They will not bow the knee to give glory to Jehovah. They are rebels from birth. They are liars of Lucifer. They are not born as pure white pieces of paper as the fraud Freud said. David wrote:

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;** They go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies.

This is what will lead children to the cross!

4. A good father knows children need training to get rewards in heaven and on earth today!

A father avoids negative Training

4 **...do not provoke** your children to wrath

1. A father does not provoke (exasperate) his children so they become sinfully angry (to wrath).

He will not be unreasonable in his rebukes of children. He will acknowledge good things they do along with his rebukes.

He won't ignore his responsibilities to teach and admonish. Children will resent him for this.

He won't ask his children to do what is beyond their abilities.

He won't over punish when his children's sins...he will show proportionality. Cruelty is a sin.

He won't be impatient when they don't understand something, even though another child might have understood it faster.

He won't keep watching the game or surfing the internet when his child needs his attention for instruction or discipline.

He won't abuse your power as a father!

2. But there are some additional warnings against negative child-rearing.

A good father must not allow children to be rude, inconsiderate, selfish, lazy, sloppy, or disrespectful.

A father should not allow children to do what they want when the children are tired.

A father should not allow children to do what they want when the parents are tired.

A father should not give children too much time or too many chances to obey. This is negative training. They will think God is tolerant of sin. There is absolutely no need to count for children to obey...unless you need to learn your numbers!

A father must not only train children to obey only when he hears a threat.

A father must not allow children to determine when he wants to do something you tell him to do. A child might say, "Just a minute." But you must set the rules.

A father must not allow a children to make up excuses... Allowing a child to make excuses is wrong because he will try to blame others for his fault, will want to share his fault, or avoid responsibility altogether. One of the reasons parents ask for excuse (Why did you do that wrong thing?) is because they hope there is an excuse because they may be too lazy to discipline. But you have to remember the nature of your children is sinful.

A father must not allow children to get whatever they want. If he wants pizza every night, he gets it. She wants to watch cartoon 3 hours a day, she gets it. He wants judo instead of going to church, okay. Negatively training children in such sinful ways is taking them to hell and knocking on the door.

1 Kings 1:5 Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king"; and he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him. 6 **(And his father had not rebuked him at any time by saying, "Why have you done so?"...**

A father must not train a child to argue every instruction he receives. Immediate obedience can result in saving his life or saving him from danger – like avoiding an accident, or being burned in a fire. **Parents do not owe children an explanation for their instructions.** He does not need to know why you are telling to do something. He does not have to agree why you have told him something. You may help a child and explain why you told him to do something after he has obeyed, or if he is asking with a desire to learn. But if you think it is for rebellion, don't support it. You don't owe him an explanation if he is questioning your authority or wisdom.

3. A good father has to take responsibility if his children are not trained well, even if he unintentionally fails.

But why does a child rebel in the first place? Parents don't recognize these sins in their

own lives so their children pick up those sins. And since parents don't recognize their sins, they don't try to reform these children. **If Dad were lazy, Johnny will be lazy. If Mom is dirty, Susie will be dirty.** If **Dad were rude to grandma, guess what children learn?** If Mom eats junk food, baby will like junk food. So this type of bad training is not intentional, but it does have a negative effect on children.

Nature of training

4 ...but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

1. A good father disciplines (nurtures/chastening) and teaches (admonishes) his children to grow along a “predetermined path, like an ivy vine (or grape) is made to grow along a trellis.

You wrap the young vines around a pole so they will stay there...sometimes tie them down.
You train an athlete to become fit for a contest and to win.
You train an animal to complete a particular task or to learn trick.

You train children with the view they would be able to do specific things.

1Corinthians 14:8 For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare himself for battle?

If fact, the ancient meaning of the word “train” is to “make narrow” or “strangle.”

Proverbs 22:6 -Train up a child **according to his word,** And when he is old he will not depart from it.

So parents are to restrict their children...not let them do what they want. Direct your children in a way of life that is agreeable to God's standards. (Bring them up in the Lord!)

2. A good father knows the need and actually educates his children in things that matter: knowing who God is, knowing the seriousness of sin, and knowing what Jesus Christ did for sinners.

Your job is not just to get children trained in a career! Unfortunately, this is where many fathers focus. It is the mark of a carnal Christian – to focus on worldly things and ignore spiritual things.

3. The good father never stops training until his children become fully proficient in their intended task.

So choose what your children watch on TV. Choose who your children's friends are. Choose what they eat. Choose what kind of clothes they wear. Choose when they go to bed!

You do this until they have been trained to make the right decisions. (Obviously you gradually increase their responsibilities as they prove themselves.) The Lord will hold a father responsible if he stops teaching and disciplining his child.

4. A good father does not train his children only by instruction.

Ever heard a parent say, **“I just don’t understand why he turned out that way. I always told him what was right.”** Sometimes it is because the parent only talked the talk but did not live the talk! You have to show by your life! Don’t just say, “Eat your vegetables,” eat your vegetables also. Don’t use words you don’t want your children to use.

5. A good father does not train only by environment.

Merely having a good home environment is not enough to train a child. This is one of the reasons some pastors have children who are no longer serving the Lord. They assumed as long as the environment is good, children will be good. Even exposing your children to good teaching at church or at a Christian school is not enough to train a child.

6. A good father does not expect outsiders to alter his children’s behavior; he does it himself.

Parents are to teach their children to respect and obey authority long before they are exposed to outsiders. In fact, a modern father will expect **that outsiders...friends...will often lead children from Christ.**

7. A good father knows the need to be consistent and repetitive in discipline and teaching his children.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 - "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

The word “teach” in V7, means you have to “repeat over and over again.”

8. A good father realizes that he is not to be a friend to his children but a parent to them.

Being a friend to your children sounds woke, but you aren’t called to be woke. You are called to discipline and teach. Friendship with your children won’t allow you to do this job well. Friends don’t discipline friends! **Trying to be friends to your children minimizes your duties...you will have to avoid your duties and stand against the Word of God!** Mothers, be mindful of this!

9. A good father understands that raising children is not training children.

Food, clothing, and shelter are good, but they don’t provided instruction and restriction that are necessary for children. Instruction and discipline are foundational to training children.

Conclusion:

Dear Brothers and sisters: Children are not your friends. They are a heritage from God for God. They are your wards. It is your duty to train these stubborn and rebellious people in God’s Word so that they are moved by God’s Holy Spirit to change their ways and bow their knee to the Lord. Then they are to live for God’s glory.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Be faithful to the Scriptures in your training. Be consistent. Don't delegate this authority to anyone else. You are to ask for help from God and your elders when you need it. Never to be ashamed to ask for help. It is beyond your ability to **raise children for God's glory!**

2. If you do these things you will bring glory to Christ (since you love him), you will show how much you love your children, and you will save your children's souls from hell.

3. If you don't train your children you will send them to hell. Are you prepared to live with these consequences?

Finally, everyone here today (not just children), must live for God's glory. Are you? If you have been living for yourself you are heading for hell. You too were born in sin and under God's condemnation to hell. Only the one who bows the knee to God will have his sins taken away and will inherit eternal life in heaven. That's what God's Word says! I urge you today to not fight against God but accept his salvation that only comes through Christ.