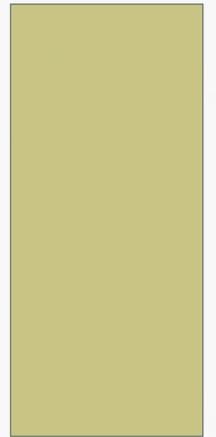


FATHERS WHO ARE NOT IN
HEAVEN



EPHESIANS 6:4

“Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”

- a negative action they are to avoid –
“Fathers, do not exasperate your children”
- a positive attitude, an action to develop –
“instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”

AIM

What does it mean to exasperate your children and in what ways do we exasperate them?

I also want to explain some of what it means to bring up children in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Practical applications and suggestions

BACKGROUND

vs 15 - Paul has said that we ought to make sure that we live as wise and not unwise people

vs 16 - he explains that the wise make the most of every opportunity by living godly lives.

vs 18 - he contrasts the wise and the unwise.

Unwise: Do not **get drunk** on wine that leads to **debauchery**,
The **wise**, on the other hand, are **filled with the Spirit**.

vs 19 -21 – description of a person who is filled with the Spirit.
Admonish and encourage one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. They make music to the Lord in their hearts, their hearts are filled with gratitude and in vs 21, they are submissive people

BACKGROUND

Vs 22 – Wives, submit to your husbands

Vs 25 – Husbands, love your wives

6:1 – Children, obey your parents

Vs 4 – Fathers, do not exasperate your children

EXASPERATE

To goad, to irritate, to provoke, to frustrate.

Often leads children to be angry, wrathful and resentful.

Cultural context: Fathers had absolute authority over their children.

Not part of my culture

Comfort for us – Spirit-filled

IMPLICATIONS

Make sure you are born again. If you are not born again, you cannot and will not possess the Spirit of God which enables or allows you to do what He commands.

In Gal 5:22 Paul states the marks or traits of those who are filled by the Spirit: “*But the **fruit** of the Spirit **is** love, joy, peace, patience (long-suffering), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.*”

How do you make sure you are Spirit-filled? Watch your relationship with the Lord, if you drop your prayer life and devotion you will become spiritually dry; if you miss opportunities for teaching and nourishment through discipleship. The Spirit has written this for our edification, instruction and encouragement.

The Father who wants to make sure that he does not exasperate his children, wants to live a life that is controlled by the Spirit of God. This will enable his relationships to his child to be loving, peaceful, kind, good, faithful, gentle, and self-controlled.

CRITICISM

Always saying hurtful things to the child

Belittling them

Showing no confidence in them

Never praising, complimenting or congratulating them for a job well done

Never thanking them for anything useful they do for you or the family

HALO EFFECT

- When the child can do no wrong
- They are always praised for everything they do, everything is always excellent or “above average”
- Therefore, the child is never corrected or disciplined.

THE PERFECT DAD

- To come across as never being in the wrong, therefore you never ask for forgiveness and miss out on opportunities to model humility.

IRRITABLE

- Coming home after a pressured day, shouting and yelling and screaming at the kids and giving the kids a hard time or more spankings than he usually does only because he has had a hard day.
- Maybe it is not that dramatic, but you are moody, and they know when he is like that, to stay out of the way.

INCONSISTENT

- There are few things as frustrating to a child as a parent that is inconsistent. They never know what they are allowed to do because it all depends on daddy's moods, e.g. discipline
- It is so unfair to the kids to discipline them the one time for a penalty, and the next time to let that same penalty slide.

FAVORITISM

- There are few things that can crush the soul of a child like the knowledge that they are less loved, or rejected.
- We read in Genesis about how disheartened Joseph's brothers were to know that Joseph was their father's favorite. They even wanted to kill him.
- Sports, music, academics.

LIVING YOUR DREAMS THROUGH YOUR CHILD

- One sure way to exasperate your child is to try to live your life through them; to make sure they achieve all of the things you couldn't, not because they like it or enjoy it, but because you couldn't do them in your own lifetime

INSTEAD

- *“bring them up ...*
- *in the training*
- *and instruction of the Lord.”*

BRING THEM UP

- The instruction to bring them up is not given to Sunday school teachers, the church, or the school, but to fathers.
- The school and the church are meant to complement what we do at home on a regular basis.
- Shaun's example
- He communicates that you expect them to be listening or paying attention in church. In other words, the Word of God is also for them.
- **Secondly**, it gives you opportunity to clear up any confusion
- **Thirdly**, it gives you opportunities to reinforce what was taught throughout the week - while you are at home, at the park, at the store, watching TV, etc.
- **Fourthly**, it holds teachers accountable.
- As fathers, it is our role to bring them up, not to outsource the role, let moms take over, or just think it will happen passively.

INSTRUCT

- 'instruct' talks about giving verbal guidance
- includes teaching, correcting, rebuking, encouraging, verbally pointing in the right the direction
- This means having family devotions with them every night, praying with them, applying the Word of God into their lives

TRAINING

- The word 'train' has the idea of disciplining your child.
- It includes punishment, but refers to more than that
- It is more like an athlete who is training for a race, who is practicing and exercising daily. They are disciplining their bodies and disciplining themselves
- It's training in that sense that we ought to give our children certain disciplines when it comes to the Word of the Lord so they can grow up having a biblical view of the world.

TRAINING

Whereas the word '**instruct**' speaks specifically about the giving of verbal instructions, both positively and negatively, the word '**train**' speaks about a general conduct and behavior that we are to make sure our children develop.

Attitude towards church

Attitude towards family devotion

Dealing with calamity

Global issues

Reading missionary biographies to them at special times, Sunday or Saturday night, or when you're on vacation.

CONCLUSION

- You see, we do these things lovingly, patiently, with kindness, because we want to be like our Father in heaven. He does not exasperate us, but treats us with great patience.