

THE SPIRIT-CONTROLLED FAMILY

Part 2 – Parental Discipline

Ephesians 6:4

Introduction:

- A. What qualifies a person in becoming an expert in raising children
 - 1. A degree in child psychology
 - 2. Years of experience in raising kids
 - 3. Intense research of studying a wide variety of families
 - 4. All the above
- B. The Creator, God is the ultimate expert because He knows everyone's h_____ and mind (1Chr 28:9)
 - 1. God gave us His word to teach us t_____, to expose what is wrong, to give the correct way to live, and to grow us in living rightly (2Tim 3:16)
 - 2. Eph 6:4 gives b_____ but profound instruction in the area of parental discipline.
 - 3. Let's answer some important questions

Who does the disciplining?

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger

- A. Paul specifically addresses f_____.
 - 1. The Greek word is translated as p_____ in Heb 11:23 (The New Jerusalem Bible translates Eph 6:4 this way)
 - a. In verse 1, a different Greek word is used for the word parents, which can only mean that.
 - b. If Paul meant to address both parents and not just fathers, he would have most likely used the same Greek word for parents that he did in verse 1.
 - 2. Does this mean that this verse does not apply to m_____?
 - a. Paul commanded husbands to love their wives, but this does not mean that wives do not have to love their husbands. Husbands had the problem in the area of love, where wives had a problem in the area of r_____. (Eph 5:22-32)
 - b. Likewise, fathers had the problem in the area of d_____ their children, not mothers.
- B. This instruction can be a_____ to both mothers and fathers.

What is the wrong way to discipline?

- A. The definition of discipline
 - 1. Often thought as a negative action like p_____
 - 2. But it also includes positive actions as well.

- B. Wrong discipline is one that makes your kids a _____
1. In the early stages of child development, children need to know that parents are in c_____ (usually done by inflicting pain along with verbal commands to correct wrong behavior)
 2. In the school-age years, children need to know the r_____ behind the boundary parents have set.
 - a. Never make the issue about control because this will make a child a _____
 - b. Make it an issue of something else, like:
 - 1) S_____ - applied when children endanger their well-being.
 - 2) R_____ - applied when children are given freedom but they abuse it.
 - 3) S_____ - applied when children act contrary to what Jesus desires (e.g. – not sharing - 1Tim 6:18)
 3. Always show a _____ in your correction as the motivation for change (Rev 3:19 states that Jesus disciplines us because He has deep affection for us and He wants that kind of love to motivate us to change).

What is the right way to discipline?

But bring them up in the discipline and admonition of the Lord.

- A. The word discipline (NIV – training; KJV – nurture)
 1. The Greek word is a general word that refers to the general e_____ of children
 2. The word includes the idea of p_____ for becoming part of society as adults.
- B. The word admonition (NIV – instruction) includes:
 1. A positive action of giving g_____
 2. A negative action of giving c_____ or warning
- C. Discipline and admonition must be *of the Lord*.
 1. Connect child-raising with God's w _____
 2. This involves not just punishing wrong behavior but e_____ right behavior.
- D. Application (Deut 6:7) -
 1. Teach the c _____ of God's word when you sit with them, walk with them, lie down and get up.
 2. Teach the a _____ of God's word – the Hebrew reads to leave an im _____
 - a. By being a living e _____ (Jms 1:22; Matt 7:24)
 - b. By incorporating God's word into a child's everyday life (e.g. sexuality; self-esteem; temptations; personal conflict)