

06/05 – 06/06/2021

A Word For Fathers

Series: In Him

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Ephesians 6:4

⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

First, dads, you're the first look at God. When fatherhood goes wrong, it can deeply affect a child's view of God.

Second, fathers, you're the pastor of your home. *How do we do it?*

"do not provoke"

provoke/exasperate (parorgizó): to provoke to anger

So we can lead with anger or we can lead with love.

Kids are safe in a true Christian home with a culture of grace.

"...bring them up discipline and instruction of the Lord."

discipline (paideia) (paideúō, see there) – properly, instruction that trains someone to reach full development (maturity).

Have a vision: *What does full maturity look like?*

"Bring them up"

That's the Greek "ektréphō" meaning to "properly feed & nourish out...to its needed outcome."

Paideia focuses on practical training or teaching by discipline. The discipline can be developmental or disciplinary—all for the purpose of developing them into the vision.

There's no "raise-a-Christian-kid-code." It's the grace of God that saves anyone.

instruction (nouthesía) ("warning through teaching") improves a person's reasoning so they can reach God's solution – i.e. by going through His thought-process.

This differs from the first word used—discipline—in that instruction is aimed at the mind. Where the first is about soul & body health, this one is about mind health. To think healthy.

CS Lewis, *The Abolition of Man* "In a sort of ghastly simplicity we remove the organ and demand the function. We make men without chests and expect of them virtue and enterprise. We laugh at honour and are shocked to find traitors in our midst. We castrate and bid the geldings be fruitful."

How train to think healthy?

Reason with them until they see the gospel.

We don't just tell them what to believe. We show the beauty of it.

This is how God fathers us. He wins our hearts with His wisdom and love.

"Of the Lord"

Instruct them in the things "of the Lord."

First, this phrase also speaks of the warmth of it, as training children in ancient times was harsh and stern.

Second, we're not simply trying to create "good kids"—the instruction was to create gospel kids.

What are some practical things we instruct our children in "in the Lord":

1. Gospel—consistent gospel conversations over time create gospel thinkers
2. Worldview— "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth..."
3. Genders—the world is lost without a compass. We need to show the beauty of divine design.