

Instructions for Fathers

Ephesians 6:4

Instructions for Fathers

- Children are a great blessing - Ps. 127:3-5
 - Not a burden
 - Grave responsibility
- Both parents have responsibility, but special emphasis is placed on Father's role
 - Head of family
 - Spiritual leader
 - Cannot abdicate
 - Cannot delegate

Instructions for Fathers

- Negative: *“do not provoke...”*
 - Things not to do
- Positive: *“bring them up...”*
 - Things we have to do
- Children have a responsibility to obey (6:1-3)
- Fathers have an obligation to be fair and have good purpose in their instruction

Ephesians 6:4

- “Fathers, **do not provoke** your children to anger, but **bring them up** in the **discipline** and **instruction** of the Lord.”
[NASB/ESV]
- “And, ye fathers, **provoke not** your children to wrath: but **bring them up** in the **nurture** and **admonition** of the Lord.”
[KJV]
- “And you, fathers, **do not provoke** your children to wrath, but **bring them up** in the **training** and **admonition** of the Lord.”
[NKJV]

“do not provoke...”

Provoke - to exasperate, to anger because of unjust, improper, or unreasonable treatment, or needless severity

- Results in a heart full of wrath
- Breaks down respect and discourages children (Col. 3:21)
- Avoid reacting from anger
- Be firm but gentle
- Correct with compassion
- Help them understand

“bring them up...”

Bring them up - to nourish, raise tenderly and carefully, as with an infant

- Involves a child’s whole training in all things
 - Obedience
 - Spiritual training
- Nourish their **faith** and **loyalty to God and His word**
 - Deut. 6:6-9

“discipline...”

Discipline [nurture, training] - education, instructive and corrective teaching, intellectual and moral

- The Lord disciplines his children – Heb. 12:5-11
 - Because He loves us
 - Proves we are not illegitimate
 - Produces reverence
 - For our profit
 - Not pleasant at the time
 - But, afterward...

“instruction...”

Instruction [admonition] - properly setting the mind

- Encouraging good conduct – (1 Cor. 10:11)
 - It is not enough to correct “wrong”
 - We have to teach “right”
- Be an example
 - In everything

A Father's Example...

“What if my children grow up to _____ like me?”

- serve God
- pray
- study the Bible
- show brotherly love
- attend worship
- teach
- serve others
- love their spouse
- honor their parents
- live

Instructions for Fathers

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

– Eph. 6:4

- Requires:
 - Careful training
 - Prayer
 - Discipline
 - Instruction
 - Love

Train up a child in the way he
should go, even when he is old he
will not depart from it...

-Prov. 22:6

