

# SHAPING THE NEXT GENERATION (Part 4)

## ***Ephesians 6:4***

***4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.***

## ***Colossians 3:21***

***21 Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.***

Notice how the command to “provoke not your children” is in Scripture TWICE! This has to do with the fact that discipline plays a major role in raising children. Moreover, one of the risks of disciplining children is sometimes we go overboard. Therefore, a parent has to learn how to discipline a child without also breaking their spirit or discouraging them.

Yet, instilling fear and being a good disciplinarian is not enough. To be an effective parent you ALSO have to be a good *communicator*.

## ***1 Thessalonians 2:11***

***11 As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children,***

In this passage Paul compares himself to a ‘father’. Moreover, he reveals 3 things fathers must do to discharge their duty. Fathers/parents must: 1) **exhort**, 2) **comfort**, and 3) **charge**. Therefore, to be an effective parent you must learn to do the following things well:

## PARENTS MUST LEARN TO EXHORT

What does it mean to exhort? The word “exhort” means to *entreat*.

## ***1 Timothy 5:1***

***1 Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren;***

To “entreat” someone is the opposite of *rebuking* them. When you entreat someone you *speak respectfully* to them. You make an *appeal* to them.

## ***1 Timothy 5:1 GNB***

***1 Do not rebuke an older man, but appeal to him as if he were your father. Treat the younger men as your brothers,***

As children get older, it becomes more and more important for parents to learn to *entreat* their children (speak more respectfully to them). Moreover, when you entreat someone you’re trying to get them act willingly.

Now, we know that this is not how parents start out with their children. You don't start out appealing to children. (We said to you that the "fear of the Lord" is the *beginning* to wisdom. This is what parents typically start out with—they start out with fear as their primary motivation. However, as they mature parents can't continue to use fear to motivate their children. They have to *exhort* or start trying to appeal to their children's sensibilities or conscience, because the goal is to eventually get them to do things from their heart (i.e. willingly).

## PARENTS MUST LEARN TO COMFORT

Parents need to be able to do more than instruct and exhort. They also need to know how to *comfort* (console or encourage) their children.

### **1 Thessalonians 5:14**

***14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.***

In this verse, "feebleminded" is a reference to someone who's *timid*.

### **1 Thessalonians 5:14 GNB**

***14 We urge you, our brothers and sisters, to warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.***

Someone who is "timid" is someone who's lacking motivation. Moreover, the way to comfort someone who's lacking motivation or has little courage is to encourage them. Thus, parents need to be able to boost their children emotionally (restore their confidence), and the way to do this is to give them *hope*.

### **Romans 15:4**

***4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.***

Notice what comfort is able to do (whether it comes from the Scriptures or from somebody like a parents)—it's able to give the hope.

## PARENTS MUST LEARN TO CHARGE

The word charge means to *insist* or to *strongly urge or command*. Sometimes a parent has to strongly urge or command their child to do certain things. However, when they do, they must do it without breaking their child's spirit.

In order to do this effectively, a parent needs to be aware of their child's *individual* needs. In other words, they need to have a personal relationship with EVERY SINGLE child.

### **1 Thessalonians 2:11 AMP**

***11 For you know how, as a father [dealing with] his children, we used to exhort each of you personally, stimulating and encouraging and charging you***

Notice how Paul dealt with each of them separately (individually). This is what you will need in order to coach your children to their full potential—you will need a personal relationship with each child. Also, it means that Paul didn't treat them differently.

No, I'm not talking about how Paul might comfort one child, but change (warn) another child. (Sometimes parents may have to use different strategies on different children, depending on their temperament or the situation.) No, I'm talking about when a parent treating children the same in terms of their expectation or standard.

### **1 Thessalonians 2:11–12**

***11 As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children, 12 That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.***

This is the reason why Paul exhorted, comforted and charged them—that they might walk in a manner worthy of the Lord (i.e. reflect His character). Again, this was Paul expectation for everyone one of them! He didn't lower the expectation or standard for anyone.

Sometimes we forget what our role is as a parent. Our job is to raise them to be responsible adults. Our job is to bring them up in the nurture and admonition OF THE LORD. Some parents are guilty of lowering these standards for some children. However, parents need to maintain the highest possible standards for their children WITHOUT BREAKING THEIR SPIRIT.

Now, the reason Paul was able to hold the Thessalonians to such a high standard is because he held himself to a similar standard.

### **1 Thessalonians 2:10–11**

***10 Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe: 11 As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children,***

Notice, Paul didn't actually begin with how diligently he taught them. Paul began with how diligently he lived before them! As a result, his life and message were *consistent*.

This is something that is missing from most of our communication—a consistent example of what we’re trying to teach. Before you can be a good teacher, you have to be a good example.

In fact, one of the definitions for the word “father” in Scripture is the word example. A child imitates his father’s example.

***1 Thessalonians 2:10***

***10 Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:***

Notice, Paul didn’t just live a holy life in FRONT of the Thessalonians. He lived a holy life for their benefit (i.e. that they would, in turn, live holy lives).