

ACT LIKE MEN BY TRAINING UP YOUR CHILDREN: Ephesians 6:4

TEXT: Ephesians 6:4 “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

DOCTRINE: Fathers are to train up their children for the glory of Jesus, in the ways of Jesus, through faith in Jesus, in order to fire them like arrows into the world for Christ’s name’s sake.

I. FATHERS AND FUTURE FATHERS, THE FOUNDATION OF TRAINING YOUR CHILDREN MUST BE CHRIST (Ephesians 6:1, 4).

Ephesians 6:1: “In the Lord.” **Ephesians 6:4d:** “of the Lord.”

I) You have to train up your children *for the glory of* the Lord Jesus (Colossians 1:15-18).

Colossians 1:15-18 “15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.”

II) You have to train up your children *in the ways of* the Lord Jesus (Isaiah 8:20).

Isaiah 8:20 “To the teaching and to the testimony! If they will not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn.”

III) You have to train up your children *through faith in* the Lord Jesus (Psalm 127:1-2; John 15:5; Philippians 4:13).

Psalm 127:1-2 “1 Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.
2 It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.”

John 15:5 “Apart from me you can do nothing.” **Philippians 4:13** “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

II. FATHERS AND FUTURE FATHERS, YOU MUST NOT PROVOKE YOUR CHILDREN (Ephesians 6:4a)

III. FATHERS AND FUTURE FATHERS, YOU MUST TRAIN UP YOUR CHILDREN (Ephesians 6:4b)

Proverbs 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”

Fathers and would be fathers, you have to train your children up in:

- I) Personal Stewardship, by buffeting your body and making it your slave.
- II) Bodily Stewardship, by using the body God has given you, fueling, exerting, and resting it for His glory.
- III) Familial Stewardship, by proving and protecting.
- IV) Financial Stewardship, by earning, budgeting, staying free from debt, saving, and investing.
- V) Creational Stewardship, by taking being fruitful and taking dominion.
- VI) Vocational Stewardship, by learning how to glorify the Lord in vocation whether as a man outside the home or a women in the home.
- VII) Marital Stewardship; boys, how to be men who love their wives and lead their families; girls, how to be women who submit to the husbands, loving their husband and their children.
- VIII) Chronological Stewardship, by making the best use of the time.
- IX) Relational Stewardship, by treating older men, younger men, younger women, older women like the Scriptures say.
- X) Spiritual Stewardship, by private, family, and public worship.

I) You have to train your children to be *disciplined* (Ephesians 6:4c).

This is both formative and corrective discipline.

(I) You have to set the example, men! Teach your children to be disciplined. This is formative discipline.

Proverbs 20:7: “The righteous who walks in his integrity— blessed are his children after him!” **1 Corinthians 9:24-27:** “I buffet my body and make it my slave.”

(II) You also have to use the rod, men. Teach your children there are consequences when authorities are disobeyed. This is corrective discipline.

Proverbs 13:24: “Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.” **Proverbs 19:18:** “Discipline your son, for there is hope; do not set your heart on putting him to death.” **Proverbs 22:15:** “Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.” **Proverbs 23:13:** “Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you strike him with a rod, he will not die.” **Proverbs 29:15:** “The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.” **Proverbs 29:17:** “Discipline your son, and he will give you rest; he will give delight to your heart.”

II) You have to train your children by *instructing* them (Ephesians 6:4d).

Proverbs 1:8-9 “**8** Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, **9** for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.”

You have to instruct your children in both the Law of God and the Gospel of God, for both salvation and sanctification.

(I) You have to instruct your children in the Law of God for salvation (Romans 7:7).

Romans 7:7 “If it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin.”

(II) You have to instruct your children in the Gospel of God for salvation (1 Peter 1:23-25; Acts 2:38-39; John 6:40).

1 Peter 1:23-25 “**23** You have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; **24** for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, **25** but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you.” **Acts 2:38-39** “**38** Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name

of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” **John 6:40** “For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

(III) You have to instruct your children in the Law of God for sanctification (Romans 7:12).

Romans 7:12 “The law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.”

(IV) You have to instruct your children in the Gospel of God for sanctification (Galatians 2:20; 2 Corinthians 3:18).

Galatians 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” **2 Corinthians 3:18** “And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”

Daily Family Worship must not be neglected. Most of this instruction happens in that time.

J.C. Ryle has a short booklet titled *The Duties of Parents*. You should read it and re-read it. In this short work, Ryle outlines and explains these 17 duties:

1. First, then, if you would train your children rightly, train them in the way they should go—and not in the way that they desire.
2. Train up your child with all tenderness, affection, and patience.
3. Train your children with an abiding persuasion on your mind that much depends upon you.
4. Train with this thought continually before your eyes—that the soul of your child is the first thing to be considered.
5. Train your child to a knowledge of the Bible.
6. Train them to a habit of Prayer.
7. Train them to habits of diligence, and regularity about public means of grace.
8. Train them to a habit of faith.
9. Train them to a habit of obedience.
10. Train them to a habit of always speaking the truth.
11. Train them to a habit of always redeeming the time.
12. Train them with a constant fear of over-indulgence.
13. Train them remembering continually how God trains His children.

14. Train them remembering continually the influence of your own example.
15. Train them, remembering continually the power of sin.
16. Train them remembering continually the promises of Scripture.
17. Train them, lastly, with continual prayer for a blessing on all you do.

CONCLUSION

Fathers and future fathers, you and I are to train up our children for the glory of Jesus, in the ways of Jesus, and dependent on Jesus so that we may fire our children like arrows into this world for Christ's name's sake (Psalm 127:3-5; Psalm 78:5-7).

Psalm 127:3-5 “**3** Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. **4** Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. **5** Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.”

Psalm 78:5-7 “**5** He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, **6** that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, **7** so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments. . .”

We must train up our children in these ways so that, through them, God would destroy the kingdom of Satan, advance the Kingdom of grace, and hasten the Kingdom of glory.

Proverbs 14:26 “In the fear of the Lord one has strong confidence, and his children will have a refuge.”