

# FAMILY: God's Way

## The World's Greatest Job!

Ephesians 6:4

*Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes*

**NKJV** - "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."

**NVI** - "Y ustedes, padres, no hagan enojar a sus hijos, sino críenlos según la disciplina e instrucción del Señor."

**NLT** - "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord."

**AMP** - "Fathers, do not irritate and provoke your children to anger [do not exasperate them to resentment], but rear them [tenderly] in the training and discipline and the counsel and admonition of the Lord."

[My mind goes back to April 24, 2008 in Ashford Hospital....](#)

- [Ps. 127:3-5 NLT](#) - "[Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from him.](#) Children born to a young man are like arrows in a warrior's hands. [How joyful is the man whose quiver is full of them!](#)"  
*There were 3 men in a Nativity ward, waiting for their children to be born...*  
*"It's easier to **BUILD** strong children, than to **REPAIR** broken men!"*

- I. Parenting could be done **NEGATIVELY!**
- II. Parenting should be done **POSITIVELY!**
- III. Parenting must be done **SPIRITUALLY!**

I. Parenting could be done **NEGATIVELY!** - "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children.."

- Why is this command directed specifically at the FATHERS??  
[Possibility #1](#) - [Typically, many fathers naturally tend to neglect their children.](#) (1st cent.)  
*"Why do you men scrape and turn over every stone in order to make more riches, while at the same time you neglect your*

*sons, to whom you will one day surrender everything?" -  
Socrates*

- **Possibility #2** - *Relationally, fathers are the ones who tend to be more harsh.*  
Most fathers are usually the more stricter and tougher parent relating to their children. Men have been given the "power of authority" by God as family leaders, and most have no problem letting that show, although at times it is too harsh.
- **Possibility #3** - *Biblically, fathers bear the responsibility for raising the children!*
  - If it is a 2 parent home, it is the husband and father, in the eyes of God who has the ultimate responsibility for raising and developing the children - not the mother!
- **Eph 6:4 Amp** - ***"Fathers, do not irritate and provoke your children to anger [do not exasperate them to resentment].."***
  - **HYPOCRISY** - When parents preach one thing, but live out something else, their children are the first ones to see it. This is a killer to the faith of children.  
*"A man can be a saint abroad, but still a devil at home." - John Bunyan*
  - **INCONSISTENCY** - Responding differently in their discipline will confuse your children. Or if one parent is harsh, while the other is soft...  
*"Harvard Sociologist...firm, fair, consistent discipline."*
  - **DISCOURAGEMENT** - Children need to know what they do right, too! Parents cannot simply be critiquing and criticizing their children, as this breeds resentment.  
**Pros 15:1** - *"A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."*
  - **FAVORITISM** - When your kids is always compared as inferior to any of your other children, and if they never feels they can measure up to their siblings, they will resent it.
    - *Isaac favored Esau...Rebekah favored Jacob...disaster!!*
    - *Jacob favored Joseph over his other 11 sons...disaster!!*
  - **OVER-COMMITMENT** - When the occupation/hobbies of a parent appear to take precedence over your child, it can lead to tremendous discouragement.  
*Charles Francis Adams, grandson of John Adams, was very over committed to politics...*

- **DOMINEERING** - When a child feels that they are smothered or controlled by their parents, this can be incredibly frustrating and lead to a negative relationship.
  
- **MINIMIZING** - If a child shares an idea, and the parents consistently minimize it, making the child feel it's ridiculous and stupid, it will build up resentment in your kids.
  - Foster Care workers tell us that most of the kids who enter their system, come from "disinterested parents" who simply give their children up!*
  
- **OVER-INVOLVEMENT** - When the parents get their children over-involved and committed to too many activities, with too much pressure on them, it can lead to resentment. If the parents set their expectations too high, it can lead to disappointment and discouragement in their children.

## II. Parenting should be done **POSITIVELY!** - *"..but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."*

- Immediately, we see that there are 2 commands for Biblical Parents:
  - 1. **TRAINING** their children.
  - 2. **ADMONISHING** their children.
  
- **"Training"** - This is the Greek word *"παιδεία"* or *"paideia"* and primarily means to
  - We could think of this as **"PREVENTATIVE DISCIPLINE"**
  - **Prov 22:6 NKJV** - *"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."*
  - **1Tim 4:8 NLT** - *"Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come."*
  - **Deut 6:4-9** - *"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."*
    - *Actor Michael Douglas grew up with an absent father. His father, actor Kirk Douglas, was hardly around during Michael's childhood because he was off*

making movies. In 2010 Michael's own child, Cameron, was sentenced to five years in prison for drug dealing and abuse. He had grown up with the same kind of absent father. Michael is hoping to repair his relationship with Cameron the way he and Kirk did late in his father's life. "Some people make more of an effort with strangers than the people closes to them. I don't care about any of that any more. From now on I'm going to spend all my efforts on the people I am close to," Douglas says.

**Philip Rivers, quarterback for the San Diego Chargers, said it well:** "The thing our kids hunger for is our time. And believe me, I have to fake it real hard that I care about Barbie dolls." His daughters will be the winners over time because of his willingness to get down on the floor and play dolls with them.

**Biblical Parenting = "Discipleship" - Biblical Parenting isn't EASY, but it's SIMPLE!**

**Mt 28:19-20** - "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.."

- **"Admonition"** - This is the Greek word "**nouthesia**" meaning "correcting, rebuking, or warning"
- We could think of this as "**CORRECTIVE DISCIPLINE**"  
**Heb 12:5-11 NLT** - "And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children?\* He said, "My child, don't make light of the Lord's discipline, and don't give up when He corrects you. For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child." As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? If God doesn't discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all. Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever? For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. No discipline is enjoyable while it is

*happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way."*

*Sharon Standifird served her country in the Gulf War, climbed mountains, and took care of her family, yet she found she didn't get the respect she deserved from her children. When she would try to call them on their cell phones, her children choose to "Ignore" her calls. Instead of getting mad, Standifird decided to create a cell phone app. Her principle was simple: When her kid's don't pick up their mother's phone call, the app locks their phone. The app, known as "Ignore No More," is available for any Android phone and is starting to catch on around the country. Standifird says the app works for her because her kids are a lot more alert to her calls. Her son Bradley has become the apps unofficial spokesman.*

- **Biblical Parenting does involve an element of rebuking, disciplining, correcting, and warning. This can be verbal, physical, or circumstantial.**

**Prov 6:20-23** - *"My son, obey your father's commands, and don't neglect your mother's instruction. Keep their words always in your heart. Tie them around your neck. When you walk, their counsel will lead you. When you sleep, they will protect you. When you wake up, they will advise you. For their command is a lamp and their instruction a light; their corrective discipline is the way to life."*

**Prov 29:15 NKJV** - *"The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother."*

**Prov 22:15 NLT** - *"A youngster's heart is filled with foolishness, but physical discipline will drive it far away."*

**Naples, Italy, is a city on the verge of bankruptcy.**  
*There are problems with organized crime and an underfunded police department. So what are they spending money on? They have begun to DNA test dog feces so that they can prosecute residents who do not pick up after their dogs. In a city with so many problems, especially financial ones, it is strange to spend money on dog droppings. Tommaso Sodano, the vice mayor, says, "I know some people find it funny that with all the problems the city has, we would focus on dog poop." Many times in our quest to be biblical parents, we, too, can find ourselves majoring*

on minors.

### III. Parenting must be done **SPIRITUALLY!** - *"..of the Lord"*

- The goal should be this *"..of the Lord"* It is a **SPIRITUAL** goal! The ultimate goal of all parenting should be two primary objectives:
  - 1. **SALVATION** - See that your children come into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ!
    - ***He is known as "the Man with a Golden Arm."*** James Harrison, an Australian man born in 1936, has blood that has saved the lives of over 2 million newborn babies. He was recognized in 2003 by the Guinness Book of World Records as having donated the most blood, by a single person in history. The reason for this is that his blood contains a rare antibody capable of curing **"Rhesus Disease"**, where a babies' blood type is incompatible with that of their mother. James has donated blood over 1,000 times and has no thoughts of ever stopping!
  - 2. **MOBILIZATION** - See that your children become mature spiritually, knowing their gift, investing their resources, and aggressively investing their lives to expand Jesus' Kingdom!
    - **Eph 2:10** - "For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

***An American couple was navigating through the Italian countryside, using their GPS to help them. Their goal was to visit the city of "Capri", an island off the coast of southern Italy. However, instead entered the word "Carpi" into their GPS, which guided them to a town about 400 miles away. When they finally discovered their mistake, they were surprised, but not angry. They simply got back in the car and started driving in the right direction."***