

Parenting on Purpose

Today brings the conclusion of this summer's focus on Godly families. In June we began in Ephesians 5:18-21 and talked about what it means to be filled with the Spirit, which leads to praise and worship, gratitude and thanksgiving. It also involves a willing submission that makes every relationship in life work as God designed. Last week we were in the opening verses of chapter 6, where Paul discusses the importance of children being obedient and how that comes with a promise of a long full life. We will continue our look at this text today.

I. Corrective Discipline is the Way to Life

- A. Proverbs 6:23: *For a command is a lamp, teaching is a light, and corrective discipline is the **way to life**.*
- B. The responsibility of discipline falls squarely on parents. Your job is to shape their will.
- C. Proverbs & physical discipline: Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 23:13-14; 29:15.
 - 1. What a parent chooses to do with these verses is a personal judgment.
 - 2. We must guard against viewing discipline only in the extreme.
 - 3. Physical discipline should be the last option in your toolbox. There should be several steps of discipline taken BEFORE you have to go there.

II. Ephesians 6:1-3: The Child's Perspective

- A. Ephesians 6:1: *Children, **obey** your parents in the Lord, because this is right.*
 - 1. The emphasis here is on "doing." *The ways of the Lord are **right**,* Hosea 14:9.
- B. Ephesians 6:2a: ***Honor** your father and mother,,...*
 - 1. Here, Paul addresses the heart behind the action. Parents are an incredible treasure.
- C. Ephesians 6:2b-3: *...which is the first commandment with a **promise**, so that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life in the land.*
 - 1. Happiness, peace, and harmony come when a child obeys his parents.

III. Ephesians 6:4: The Training and Nurturing of Children

- A. Ephesians 6:4: *Fathers, don't **stir up** anger in your children, but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*
- B. Don't exasperate your children
 - 1. "Stir up" means to "provoke" or exasperate.
 - 2. Through: overprotection; favoritism; unrealistic expectations; discouragement; or neglect.
- C. Bring them up
 - 1. In **training**. See Deuteronomy 6. This involves teaching.
 - 2. In **instruction**, i.e. "putting in mind." Imparting the right attitudes.

IV. As We Close...

- A. This is how spirit-filled parents raise their children.

B. It should be a goal for all of us.