

Intentional Parenting

(because it doesn't happen by accident)

Fathers Must Take the Lead

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Introduction: In the government of the home, God has placed the _____ squarely upon the shoulders of the father. He must both recognize it and embrace it. To ignore it will not negate it.

1. Fathers are accountable for the spiritual _____ of their children (Eph. 6:4).

Fathers must exercise responsibility in at least these three roles:

- a. Spirit-filled _____ (5:18)
- b. Loving _____ (5:25)
- c. Responsible _____ (6:4)

Note that the duty of the subordinate is given within the larger context of the attitude and love of the leader (5:22-25 and 6:1-4). The leader is reminded of his leader (5:25—Christ; 6:4—the Lord; 6:9—your Master).

2. Fathers must be careful to avoid _____
their children to wrath.

Power often _____; and the one
who occupies the seat of power is in the prime position to
abuse it.

Fathers must not adopt a _____
attitude toward children. Intimidation can be initially effective,
but its long-term effects are destructive to any relationship.
How is wrath or anger stirred in the heart of a child?

a. Anger begets _____ and
discouragement. This is an _____
provocation. (See Prov. 15:18; 29:22; 14:17; and Ecc
7:9.) Internalized anger (bitterness) causes a child to
become discouraged--literally, to "lose spirit" (Col.
3:21).

b. A lack of clear _____ begets
bitterness and discouragement. This is a
_____ provocation.

To not bring up a child in the nurture and admonition
of the Lord is in itself a provocation to wrath.

When expectations are not communicated, followers
are left to guess at their responsibility. When they are
punished for guessing wrongly, they grow

_____.

3. A responsible father will assure that his child reaches

_____.

“Bring them up” (ektrepho) means “to stiffen or fatten” (translated nourisheth in 5:29.) To “bring them up” means to rear them to maturity.

A father’s desire for his child’s _____ development should be as natural and obvious as the nourishment of his own body.

Do not assume that a child’s physical growth and spiritual growth progress _____.

4. A responsible father understands the need to _____ his children for the Lord.

To enable children to reach spiritual maturity, a father must nurture him and admonish him.

a. A father must _____ his children.

Nurture (Greek—paideia) tutorage, i.e. education or training; by implication, disciplinary correction; chastening, chastisement, instruction, nurture.

This word was used during Paul’s day regarding the general education and culture of a child.

To nurture a child includes two elements:

(1) _____ or training (2
Tim. 3:16)

(2) Correction or _____ (Heb.
12:5-11)

b. A father must _____ his
children.

Admonition (Greek—nouthesia) means a “a calling
attention to.” It implies a mild rebuke or warning.

To admonish a child includes two elements:

(1) Calling for a change in behavior by verbally
_____ error (Titus
3:10).

(2) Warning him by _____
the effects of sins in the lives of others (1
Cor. 10:11).