

Sunday, June 18, 2017

Pastor Tracy Headley

Ephesians 6:1-4 NLT

1. Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do.
2. "Honor your father and mother." This is the first of the Ten Commandments that ends with a promise.
3. And this is the promise: If you honor your father and mother, "you will live a long life, full of blessing."
4. And now a word to you fathers. Don't make your children angry by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction approved by the Lord.

The Apostle Paul writes that there are three important functions that Christian fathers must carry out.

1. Christian Father's, don't Provoke their Children to Wrath:

The first thing Paul says to Father's is a word of warning! Don't provoke your children. Now this doesn't mean what you think. I don't know of any dad that hasn't made his children mad. I think it's in the daddy manual, right after taking out the trash, dads make everybody mad every once in awhile. After all, Dad's often have to say no, Dad's discipline and Dad's enforce the rules of the family. But in all of this a godly Christian dad should never act out of anger, but his actions no matter how infuriating – should be done out of love! It's when a child doesn't get that message of un-dying, un-ending love that their wrath is kindled.

See discipline isn't what provokes wrath; it's the lack of love and interest that makes children angry and causes problems.

2. Christian Father's, Bring Their Children Up With Nurturing:

The second thing Paul says to Fathers is a word of counsel! After telling dads what not to do he says what you should do is give children plenty of nurturing. Now what does that mean and what does that look like? Some people say rearing children, I don't like that it sounds like pushing them to the rear - I like the term "Bring Them Up".

The bible says 'raise or bring them up'. How? In the nurture of the Lord. Just like a farmer raises tender plants and waters them and covers them from frost and feeds them fertilizer so they'll grow tall and produce good fruit – So fathers are to NUTURE their children in the Lord! Now someone will say that's just spoiling them. No, you don't have to give them everything they want, that's not nurturing that's being a grandparent.

Biblical nurture is laying a godly foundation 'in love and by example' which requires both 'time & attention'.

3. Christian Father's, Bring Their Children Up With Admonition:

The last thing Paul says to Fathers is a word of encouragement! After counseling them to nurture their children, he also encourages dads to ADMONISH their children. Now this is at the heart of being a dad. In this entire section, Paul is giving instruction to Christian parents. God designed the Christian home to consist of 'mother and father' with each fulfilling their respective roles.

Everyone knows that God made mothers to be the best at nurturing – but dad's are not to give up their responsibility to come right along side their mate in the process of 'child raising and nurturing' as well. But where fathers must really step to the plate is in the area of ADMONISHING their children.

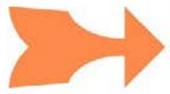
What does that mean? To admonish means to teach! Dads must teach their children the important lessons of life.

FOR EXAMPLE:

Dad, if you don't teach your child how to work the world, will teach them how to steal.

If you don't teach your children how to love and respect others the world will teach them how to be 'selfish and self centered'.

If you don't teach your child honesty the world will teach them to be a cheat!

CHILDREN, 
OBEY  your parents in the
Lord
FOR THIS IS RIGHT....
FATHERS,  do not provoke
YOUR CHILDREN TO ANGER,
 but bring them up in the
DISCIPLINE  AND INSTRUCTION
OF THE 
Lord. EPHESIANS 6:14
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