

3/15/20

God's Role For Parents

Eph. 6:4, #11

It has been said children are like wet cement, saying parents have only a window times to mold, shape and influence the lives and character of their children.

* Who is leaving their imprint upon your child in their malleable, moldable years of life, you or others?

We come to the flip-side of “God’s role for children”, “God’s role for parents”, what an awesome privilege and responsibility!

In the mind of many adults, children have become a burden and in many instances unwanted, evident by the many abortions, divorce and broken homes.

1. Children keep parents from doing what they want.
2. Children demand too much time and are running neck and neck with mom’s work.

3. Kids expect too much from mom and dad when they come home, so they are in their chat-rooms, phone texting or on line or playing video games.

* Many children and young adults are over-weight diabetic due to the lack of a balanced diet eating processed and fast-food, plus no exercise!

4. In the 80’s 1/3 of couples of child bearing age became permanently sterile and continued to increase.

5. 70% of young parents that worked in the 80’s, said they would not have children again.

6. The U.S. Census Bureau then predicted that married couples with children would account for only 20% of households.

7. The population of the U.S. in 2011 dropped dramatically and we had households with more dogs (43 million) than children. (U.S. Today, 6/24/11, U.S. Census)

The problems children and youth face today are adult created, and too often to resolve these problems parents have resorted to the psychologist and psychiatrist, rather than being responsible and obedient to their role of being parents.

The professionals have been telling parents from the 70’s to the present that they do not know how to be parents or even qualified like professionals, having become the authority over child-rearing with their methods filled with humanistic philosophies that often lack moral and ethical standards, not to speak of good common sense.

* Therefore parental authority and rights have been overruled by children’s rights through governmental and state authority under the guise to protect children.

And though I am very aware of the need to protect children from abusive adults, I equally am aware of the wrong that is done to innocent parents and the children by the government and state system that merely takes a person’s accusation or suspicions and acts immediately assuming the parents are guilty,

while ignoring the abuse by the children to threaten their own parents with their rights and even accuse their parents falsely.

The problem is that we as a humanistic and godless society have placed children as the authority over parents, yet they are children and do not have the capacity or maturity to exercise discretion and wisdom at all times, as an adults.

The rights of children against abuse and violence have always been on the law books, the removing of parental rights and authority does not and has not helped children, the home nor the family, instead it has helped to destroy it!

But the failure of parents to be parents should be no surprise since our nation has done all to destroy family parenting by handing over parental authority to “the professionals”, who are tolerant of abortion, alternate life-styles that corrupt and confuse society, such as lesbianism and homosexuality, pornography and extreme children rights and family tax penalties.

Young adults are never taught to be parents in our society, rather they are taught and encouraged to pursue a life of self-potential and fulfillment through fun, pleasure and financial gain.

Paul the apostle tells us three things about the role of parents. Eph. 6:4

- I. Parents are not to provoke their children to wrath. vs. 4a-c
- II. Parents are to bring their children up. vs. 4d
- III. Parents are to do it in the training and admonition of the Lord. vs. 4d

I. Parents are not to provoke their children to wrath. vs. 4a-c

* This is the negative, what parents are not to do!

A. The negative command is to both parents. vs. 4a-b

* “And you, fathers.”

1. You would think that this would not be needful to tell parents.
2. The truth is that parents are sinners and need to be reminded of their sinful potential.
3. The day in which Paul lived was not the best for children, as we have already studied in the role of children.
4. The term Fathers “pater” is used for the parents of Moses, who hid him for three months. Heb. 11:23
 - a. The term is also used for a father, but the context in our text is the family and Paul is dealing with the various individuals, having dealt with the husband and the wife, he now deals with both as parents, functioning as one in their parental roles.
 - b. The primary responsibility of the home falls on the father, as we have seen

entrusted by God with the authority and leadership of the home, being head of the home while his wife comes along side to support and complete him, acting as one, no inferiority is implied, but they are not equals.

- c. The plurality is clear, it took two of you to create the child, it takes two of you, father and mother to raise the child in harmony and balance, as God intended it.

B. The particular command is very specific. vs. 4b

* “do not provoke your children to wrath.”

1. The word provoke “parorgizo”, means to irritate, exasperate or enrage.
* The word wrath is the same word!
2. The other time it appears in this form is when Paul stated God would provoke Israel by grafting in the Gentiles. Rom. 10:19
3. The sister epistle of Colossians says, “Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.” Col. 3:21
* Here is the reason behind the command, it is spelled out!

Illustration

* The number of children that ran away from home in 1971-76, doubled from previous years, about 2 million.

- * Six hundred teenagers were found in New England’s prisons and gave these startling facts as to why they were there.
- Six out of ten had fathers who drank to excess.
- Many had mothers in the same condition.
- Three out of four were permitted by parents to come and go as they pleased. No parental oversight.
- Seven out of ten had homes where no group or family activities were enjoyed.
- And for all of them, no family altar, no Sunday School attendance. #4169
- * In the year 2000, 104,176 Florida juveniles were arrested for delinquency; they were charged with committing 150,747 crimes. One in four were girls, five years before it was one in five and 2000 it is higher. (The Am. Enterprise:28)
- * Every day in 2006, between 1.3 and 2.8 million runaway and homeless youth lived on the streets of America. One out of every seven children ran away before the age of 18. (National Runaway Switchboard, Jan. 2006)
- * In 2010 to 2019, according to federal estimates, at least 1.6 million youths, and as many as 2.8 million run away from home or are kicked out every year.
- * Some say the number seemed to be decreasing, but numbers only look better due to the number of children per household dropping dramatically, until the increased immigration!

Application

Here are some ways that we as parents can provoke our children to anger and discouragement.

1. Make your child totally dependent on you for all things, never let them make their own decisions or grow up, so they can never cop with society and life.
2. Relive your life through your child, be it in baseball, dance, education, etc, forcing them.
3. Reverse the roles, lean on your child with your adult problems, over-burdening them.
4. Don't listen to them, stay busy and don't be home.
5. Expect your children to do things beyond their age and ability in order to frustrate and discourage them.
6. Make sure their punishment is more severe than the offense, to brake their spirit.
7. Discipline them in your anger and humiliate them before people and make sure you are out of control.
8. Be domineering, never give reasons for your actions or decisions, be capricious and always insist on your way.
9. Be inconsistent in your discipline, you will totally confuse the child.
10. Forget that he or she is a child and demand that they act like a grown-up.
11. Never encourage them, but point out all their faults, compare them to each other, overcorrect and overprotect them.
12. Abuse them physically or worse yet, verbally.
13. Favor one more than another.
14. Neglect them, nag them and criticize them constantly.
15. Show little love and affection to them.

* Babies of WWII died having no loving touch.

16. Be their friend and let them do everything they want without giving them boundaries or consequences, at the expense of not being a parent.

17. Parents can only be effective parents, if they assume their God given role and walk being filled with the Holy Spirit!

- a. Reckoning the old man dead. Rom. 6:6, 11
- b. Denying self. Matt. 16:24
- c. Depending on the Lord for knowledge, wisdom and strength through the Scriptures. Col. 1:9-11

Parents are not to provoke their children to wrath!

II. **Parents are to bring their children up. vs. 4d**

- * This is the first of two positives, what they are to do!
- A. The positive command is in sharp contrast to the preceding one by the word “but”, a contrasting conjunction. vs. 4d
 1. If we know what we are not to do as parents, then we will better understand what we are to do.
 2. Often the best way to know what to do is by knowing first what we are not to do.
 3. Rather than tearing our children down, we as parents are to build them up.
 - B. The positive command is to “bring them up”. vs. 4d

1. The phrase, bring them up “ektrepho”, means to rear and nourish up to maturity.
 - a. The word appears only one other time in the New Testament. Eph. 5:29
 - b. The idea is of bringing about development in every area of life as they grow.
 - c. Their physical development.
 - d. Their emotional development.
 - e. Their spiritual development.
 - f. Their maturity at each level of growth and development.
2. This takes time, dedication and commitment on the parents part.
 - a. This at times has been lacking in many parents since 1960, the last 70 years in America.
 - b. There are parents who are very dedicated to their children, but they make them their idols, little gods.
 - c. Some none-believers who are good moral pagans put some Christians to shame, in the raising of their children.
 - d. But for the most part parents today have abdicated their position of bringing up their children allowing other to do the rearing up of their children or the children themselves.
 - 1) Parents have given their children up to the humanistic teachings of our public schools, especially High Schools that

- looks more like prisons and the drug users are the average middle or upper middle-class student, whose parents make \$100-250,000 a year.
- 2) Parents have given their children up to the psychologist and their thousands of contradicting teachings and philosophies, in particular the so called “Christian Psychologist”, which is a contradiction to Scripture. Many children are under some form of medication, Prozac, riddling or some other mind-altering drug.

* I am not speaking against medical treatment, if it is verified scientifically, but often it is not.
 - 3) Parents have given their children up to nannies, mentors, coaches and sports because Dad is too busy making money and Mom is too busy feeling good about herself and fulfilled in her career.
 - 4) Parents have given their children up to the children themselves by simply providing them with things and money to keep them occupied, rather than being loving examples to teach and supervise them in their moldable years.
 - 5) Parents have given their children up to churches thinking that if the children

go to church they will automatically turn out alright, while they themselves live ungodly lives.

C. The context of “bringing them up” of our text is the home, not any other place.

1. World Book Encyclopedia in 1974, on a campaign to sell books said two important things.
 - a. Parents are the child’s first teachers.
 - b. Home is the child’s first school.
 - c. Our homes and neighborhoods are ghost towns.
 - d. The level of accountability children are held to by parents and neighbors is zero.
2. The word of God prioritizes the home as the primary and foundational education center for children. Deut. 6:4-9
 - a. Regarding their responsibility to God.
 - b. Regarding their responsibility to man.
 - e. Regarding their responsibility to their siblings and in the things of God.
3. The important thing to remember is that no one is going to do for money what you won’t do for love.
 - a. No one is going to love and care for your child like you.
 - b. No professional knows a child like the parent does, provided you spend time with your child.

- c. We all have heard the statement, “I spend quality time with my child” but you can not have quality time unless you have a certain quantity of time.

Illustration

“The study in Times Magazine on Day Care concluded that kids who are in day care more than 30 hours a week score higher on things like “gets in lots of fight,” cruelty,” “explosive behavior,” talking too much, “argues a lot,” and “demands a lot of attention,” National Review: 3/26/01

* The child has not bonded with the mother!

* If you work, you spend 4,000 hour with your child, if you stay home you put 40,000 hours into your child, this is birth to eighteen.

* Someone else is putting 36,000 hours!

Application

1. Parents should be involved in their children’s development mentally.

- a. Half of an adults intellectual development occurs by age four we are told.

* Too often some people raise their kids like weeds, nothing is ever done, they are the product of their own doing!

- b. By the age of eight years no matter what environment or schooling, their mental ability will be altered only 20%.

* This is without considering the work of God in salvation and their growth in Christ!

- c. A two year old takes in his first two years as much as a student in four years of college.
 - * Are you helping your child in establishing their moral values, discretion and guidance for life?
 - d. By the time a child is three years of age, the parents have established more then half of his or her character.
 - * Thank God for His Grace that is able to alter all these factors through dying to self and growing in Christ!
 - e. A child needs to feel loved and physical contact is important.
 - f. Take advantage of the time you have to develop your child's spiritual character individually.
 - g. Let them see parental love between you.
 - 1) Young people and adults do not allow psychologist to convince you that you have to go back and relive your past to be new or use it to blame others for your disobedience, if you are in Christ, you are a new creature! 2Cor. 5:17
 - 2) This philosophy in not new, it is recorded in the Old Testament, as the people were saying to Jeremiah that their parents had eaten sour grapes and now their teeth were on edge! Jer. 31:29
2. Parents should be involved in their children's physical development.
- a. My wife and I were very affectionate with our children as they were growing up, expressing

- our love verbally and physically to them constantly and they to us.
- 1) They are 42 and 44 now and we still express our love for them and they for us.
 - 2) They both are not embarrassed to hug and kiss us in front of people anywhere.
- b. Do you hug your child, kiss them, put your arm around them, etc.
 - c. Some fathers get a little weird as their daughters begin to develop, but fathers they need your affection at that time more than ever before and if you do not provide it, some young man will.
 - d. When born, your child's brain is 1/4 of his adult size.
 - e. At 18 months it is half of his adult size.
 - f. By four years of age he or she has reached half of his adult height.
 - g. By age six, 90% of his brain is already developed, don't you want to be part of that?
 - 1) People who have seen my brother's movie "Fury To Freedom", have a negative view about my father and home-life from my brothers perspective, very one-sided, we are only 2 ½ apart, yet I have incredible memories of my father in Mexico and the U.S.
 - 2) My father never missed a day of work, took us camping, went to our base-ball games, my gymnastic competitions, maintain the cared for the yard and the house.

- h.** Be involved talk to him or her about their bodies, growth and development, referring to all the body parts by their proper name.
 - i.** Talk to them about sex before anyone else and dispel the lies and perversions they will hear from friends and the public schools
 - * We pulled our children from a class that we didn't want others to teach them and now our grandchildren!
 - j.** Parents, the church is not responsible to teach your children these thing, yet we will teach them as we go through the Bible!
- 3.** Parents should be involved in their children's spiritual development.
- a.** Children are more receptive to spiritual things than adults think.
 - b.** Have a family alter, where you read and apply God's Word as a family and daily devotionals.
 - c.** Be consistent in your attendance to church teaching them that it is not an option, but obedience and directly related to the abundant life you live.
 - d.** Encourage and teach them how to pray in to develop their own relationships, letting them pray at times at dinner or bed-time.
 - a.** Take every opportunity when God works in your life, to point it out to them, revealing to them how God works and the wisdom He provides for His provisions.

- * The Old Testament encourages setting monuments to remind the children of future about what God did in the past!
- f.** I remember when my son X was about five years old and we were driving down the street and we had one of our first conversations about the rapture. He was afraid that it would happen and he would have to leave all his friends.
- g.** So I asked him if he was enjoying himself here on earth and he said yes, well I said, it is going to be much more fun in heaven, so don't worry, the Lord will come when He is ready, it will be all right! And I left it at that and I had to comfort him a few other times!
- h.** Our sons and daughters have to be convince by the Holy Spirit regarding the truth of Scriptures and there own relationship.
- i.** Supervise your children and know who they play with and know the character of the homes that they spend the night over?
 - 1)** God commanded Israel to teach their children about God and His Word when they sat in their houses, walked by the way, when they laid down and when they would rise up. Deut. 11:19-20
 - 2)** The Proverbs are full of spiritual counsel for raising children, revealing they are a gift from God, a source of joy, a heritage or reward, given by God as a blessing!

- a) “Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.” Ps. 127:3
- b) “The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, And he who begets a wise child will delight in him.” Prov. 23:24

Parents are to bring their children up!

III. Parents are to bring up their children in the training and admonition of the Lord. vs. 4d

* This is the how they are to do it!

A. Paul says parents are to do it in a specific way.

* “in the training of the Lord.”

- 1. The word training “paideia” comes from the word tutorage, education or nurturing with implications of disciplinary corrections and is found six times in the New Testament.
- 2. One thing stated about Scripture is they are profitable for instruction. 2Tim. 3:16
- 3. The words translated chastening and training speak of what we do! Heb. 12:5, 7, 8, 11
- 4. The Proverb teaches us to train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” Prov. 22:6

* This exalts the efficiency of the word of God to save a child, not that the he is guaranteed to be a Christian or always make their way back, apart from free-will!

- 5. We are told, “foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of correction will drive it from him.” Prov. 22:15
- 6. We are further commanded to chasten our son while there is hope, and not set our heart on their crying. Prov. 19:18
- 7. Many parents do nothing, but rather leave their children to themselves and in reality spend more time training their pets!

B. Paul says parents are to do it with clear words.

* “in the admonition of the Lord.

- 1. The word admonition “nouthesia” refers to training by what we say by our spoken words of warning and rebukes, appearing three times in New Testament.
 - a. Paul told the Corinthians that the things that happened to Israel, did so as an example and written for our admonition and warning. 1Cor. 10:11
 - b. Paul told Titus, that after the second admonition or warning to a divisive man, we was to reject him. Tit. 3:10
- 2. So the bringing up of our children is dependent on these two important things.
 - a. What we do.
 - b. What we say.
 - 1) The two must be consistent and complementary!
 - 2) One without the other will bring about confusion to the child and destroy all

parental authority, being the epitome of hypocrisy on the parents part to result in rebellion in the child's heart.

- 3) Timothy was trained and admonished.
2Tim. 1:5; 3:14-15

Illustration

In 2001, the closing comments from an article entitled "Delinquency in Suburbia" from the magazine The American Enterprise, stated, "If America is to remain a humane nation, we will need real parents acting to keep their children's natural barbarism at bay, while also offering them a noble personal code and the encouragement to seek a deeper and purer life. As many sad affluent kids from across America can attest, money and "freedom" are simply no substitutes for that kind of hard guidance and love from Mom and Dad". P.P 26 Parents have failed!

* European courts of Human Rights have become the ruling authority over parents. These courts have outlawed home-schooling in Germany and threatened families with seizure of their children and imprisoned. There has been conviction of parents wanting to educate their children on sexuality and forced their children to attend a 4-day sexual education course that violated their Christian faith.

* There have already been cases like these in the U.S. In 2009 a judge ordered a ten-year old home-schooler in New Hampshire to attend Public School because the girl "appeared to reflect her mother's rigidity on questions of faith", saying it would serve her own

good by learning the different beliefs, so she might select her own beliefs.

Application

1. We have plenty of examples in Scripture of children left to themselves and those who weren't.
 - a Eli never corrected his children who laid with women in the temple and robbed the offerings, honoring his children more than God. 1Sam. 2
 - b David neglected his children and was a terrible disciplinarian encouraging them to do evil, Amnon raped Tamar his sister and Absalom kill Amnon.
 - c Samuel was nurtured by a godly mother, but his sons did not walk with God. 1Sam. 8:1-3
2. We need to train and admonish by what we do and what we say.
 - a. The purpose of discipline is to train the mind and character of a child to enable him or her to become self-controlled and a constructive members of society.
 - b. The purpose of punishment is to check the sin nature of a child and measure out a tangible and proportionate amount of consequences for their wrong actions, revealing the related equality to the offense.
 - 1) Physical consequences musy not be overdone.
 - 2) Be consistent and keep your word in your warnings and promises, so that the consequences are clearly seen as related.

* “Through wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.” Prov. 24:3-4

3. We as parents need to remember some important things.

- a. Parental authority is not to be compromised.
- b. Parental example of what is being taught strengthens parental authority and opens up parental communication.

* Do not let your children use your B.C. days to excuse and justify their life of sin!

- c. Parental love is an absolute essential expressed by punishment and permission!
- d. Parental planning for family involvement in church is important, children are to obey their parents being under age living in the home.
- e. Parents, your children are not in authority or control!

* “Correct your **son**, and he will give you rest; Yes, he will give delight to your soul.” Prov. 29:17

4. Those of you who have families that have children of a previous marriage or children out of wedlock, you need to take heed.

- a. They are your children, not just your mates.
- b. The oneness of both of you in reference to your ex-wife or ex-husband, and how you deal with issues is paramount for your child, particularly if the child lives with them.

- c. Men you protect your wife from your ex-wife’s attempts to abuse your wife due to the children of your first marriage.
- d. If your ex is an unbeliever, do all by the stipulations of the court or when they get mad at you they can charge you falsely or use it to slander you against your child.
- e. The tendency in being divorced is not to correct or discipline a child when they spend time with you, but it is a mistake, set the boundaries, consequences and be consistent.
- f. Both of you be one in your discipline and punishment or the child will learn quickly to manipulate and divide you!
* “The wicked are estranged from the womb; They go astray as soon as they are born, **speaking lies.**” Ps. 58:3

Parents are to bring up their children in the training and admonition of the Lord!

Conclusion

This is the three-fold role for parents.

- I. Parents are not to provoke their children to wrath!
- II. Parents are to bring their children up!
- III. Parents are to do it in the training and admonition of the Lord!