

"Back to Basics, Pt. 6 – Children and Marriage, Pt. 2"

Ephesians 6:1-4

Feb. 12, 2023

**I. What Parents (Fathers) Should Not Do – Eph. 6:4a**

- A. "Not provoke...to anger" = "don't make angry"...*unnecessarily* angry.

*Colossians 3:21* - Fathers, do not provoke (i.e., exasperate, See NAS) your children, lest they become discouraged.

1. "Provoke" here is more akin to exasperate, embitter, or antagonize.
2. Such treatment causes children to lose heart and become disenchanted.

- B. Habitual hypocritical, abusive, critical, or dismissive treatment of children by their parents leads to the results above.

**II. What Parents (Fathers) Should Do Instead – Eph 6:4b**

- A. "Bring them up" = lovingly nurture (See. Eph 5:29, same verb)
- B. Nurture their kids in the *discipline* (training and correction) of the Lord.

*Proverbs 22:15* - Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.

- C. Nurture the kids in the *instruction* of the Lord, above all *else!*

**III. What Both Children and Parents Should Not Do at All**

- A. Children should not excuse their failure to keep the 5<sup>th</sup> Commandments with their parents' failings.
- B. Parents should not allow the rebellious behavior of a child cause them to forsake loving discipline and instruction.