

“God’s Instructions For Fathers”

Ephesians 6:4

Introduction: Fathers are incredibly important! Even statistics in our nation demonstrate this to us. However, we do not necessarily know how to be a godly father. Plus, our society has done a lot to create confusion regarding the role of men in the home. Therefore, we need wisdom from God in order to fulfill the role He has given us. **Here are three instructions for fathers (and they apply to mothers as well) from Ephesians 6:4.**

1. We are not to treat our children in ways that frustrate them and produce bitterness and resentment.

Ways We Produce This In Our Kids

There are many ways that we can treat our children that exasperate them and produce bitterness and resentment. Here are 10 for us to think about:

- Overprotection
- Inconsistency
- Conditional love and acceptance (performance focused, perfectionism, nitpicking, nagging, fault-finding, etc.)
- Anger (manifested in verbal or physical abuse, name-calling, harsh discipline, etc.)
- Spoiling (meaning giving them practically whatever they want, acting like they are never wrong, making excuses, a lack of discipline, etc.)
- Not spending time with them (could be produced by having other priorities, divorce, fatherlessness, etc.)
- Saying one thing and doing another (failing to lead by example)
- Not listening to them
- Not keeping our promises
- Not pointing them to Jesus

2. We are to train our children through verbal instruction. This is the meaning of “admonition.” Deuteronomy 6 instructs us as to how to do that.

A. Training our children spiritually begins with us as parents (v. 1-2, 6).

B. Training our children spiritually should be from the inside out instead of the outside in (v. 4-6).

C. Training our children spiritually involves teaching them who God is and how they are to respond to Him (v. 4-5).

D. Training our children spiritually must be done with diligence (v. 7-9). Focus, determination, consistency, creativity, planning and hard work are required. It cannot be an occasional or haphazard effort.

3. We are to train our children through discipline. This is the meaning of “training.” Here are some principles regarding this.

A. The Importance Of Discipline: Proverbs 17:21, 25

B. The Definition of Discipline: The goal of discipline is to break a child’s self-will while at the same time building up his spirit so that he will become godly.

C. The Command to Discipline Our Children: Proverbs 19:18 says, “Chasten [which means “discipline by instruction and chastisement”] your son while there is hope, and do not set your heart on his destruction.”

D. The Need for Discipline: The need for discipline is bound up in the sinful nature of a child. Proverbs 22:15 says, “Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of correction will drive it far from him.”

E. The Procedure of Discipline: Proverbs 29:15 says, “The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.”