

“How To Train Our Children”
Ephesians 6:4

Introduction:

- 1. The world is also trying to train our children (Daniel 1:3-5).**
- 2. We are always training children. We are either pointing them to Jesus or away from Jesus (Proverbs 22:6). [See also Proverbs 13:1, Ezekiel 18]**

How To Train Our Children (Ephesians 6:4)

1. We properly train our children through godly example.

-We can influence them to anger and point them to the wrath of God by ungodly actions.

2. We properly train our children through love.

-Ephesians 5:28-29

-The word translated “bring them up” is the same word translated “nourish” in 5:29.

-Our training is not harsh but loving.

3. We properly train our children through discipline.

A. We are all sinners. We sin because we are sinners. Nature determines conduct so our children are born to sin.

B. Training is working to overcome and subdue their sin nature.

C. It is crucial that we teach them right and wrong and the reality of every action having a consequence. This is vital preparation for trusting Jesus (the Law shows us our need for a Savior, Galatians 3:19-25).

D. A lack of discipline makes them think they can get away with things and obscures their need for the gospel.

E. While a healthy self-image is important, it is vital that we not fall for the culture’s lies about self-esteem.

F. The goal of discipline is to break a child’s self-will while at the same time building up her spirit so that she will become godly.

4. We properly train our children through verbal instruction.

We are called to teach our children spiritually and practically in every area of life. Deuteronomy 6:7 commands us to diligently teach our children.

5. We properly train our children through pointing them to Jesus.

A. Let me paraphrase something that Jesus said (Mark 8:36). How does it profit our kids if we give them everything this world has to offer and they lose their soul?

B. Our priority in prayer and actions should be to do everything we can to help them personally trust Jesus. The gospel is not something we accept but Someone we are trusting in.

C. Be gospel-centered instead of moralistic (the point is not to raise “good little boys and girls”).

D. Parenting is discipleship. This is our responsibility, although the church is to supplement it.

E. Our goal is not to impart head knowledge but for them to become like Jesus through changed hearts.

F. We must be careful to try to cooperate with the working of the Spirit of God as He develops our children into who He wants them to be instead of parenting by pride that focuses on how other people see them (and us) outwardly.

G. We are called to prepare them for their future (prepare them to get as far upstream as possible).

H. We are creating a culture that communicates what is important to them (more caught than taught, teachable moments, them actually obeying instead of just hearing truth).

I. Entrust our children into God’s hands.

J. Remember that this begins with us (we can’t give what we don’t have or lead where we have never been).